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Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Rules

May 20, 2019

Oregon Wild Testimony Re: prohibiting coyote killing contests, SB 723-A

My name is Danielle Moser and I am the Wildlife Program Coordinator for Oregon Wild.

On behalf of Oregon Wild's nearly 20,000 members and supporters from all across the state, we submit testimony in support of SB 723-A, a bill prohibiting coyote killing contests. In addition to not being supported by a majority of Oregonians, these killing derbies do a disservice to ethical hunting.

The act of killing as many coyotes as possible for cash, prizes, and entertainment is blood sport rather than good sportsman ship. The use of high-tech tools to lure coyotes undermines fair chase and good stewardship. The very nature of these contests and the tactics permitted to kill the public's wildlife is cruel and not scientifically sound.

Earlier this legislative session, during a wildlife-themed lobby day, our members met with their legislators to discuss a variety of wildlife-related issues, of which, SB 723-A was one of them. It was clear that misinformation about the bill, and what the prohibition would entail, had been spread far and wide. To clarify: It will not affect fishing derbies. It will not prohibit people from hunting coyotes. Finally, it will not prohibit or limit wildlife managers from using lethal control. The intent is to specifically prohibit contests, derbies, and events which give out cash or prizes as a reward for killing the most or largest coyotes.

In Oregon, blood sports such as cockfighting and dogfighting have been condemned. It's time for these coyote killing contests to be as well. Please show the majority of Oregonians that you agree with them by supporting SB 723-A.

Thank you,

Danielle Moser
Wildlife Program Coordinator, Oregon Wild