

Dear House Rules Committee Members,

Thank you all so much for the work you are doing on SB 723, the coyote killing contest bill! I am a constituent and a small business owner that works in animal behavior. I support the bill and want the house to move to a vote and pass the bill before the end of this legislative session.

I moved to Oregon 4.5 years ago specifically for the unmatched natural recreational opportunities our beautiful state offers. I perhaps appreciate our forests and wildlife more than the average Oregonian because I grew up and spent much of my adult life in New York City with absolutely no access to hiking trails or dense forest. I live in Portland, but I spend every weekend hiking and seeking out wildlife viewing opportunities and I spend a large portion of my money in the communities that have these wildlife resources.

I have done research that has helped me understand and appreciate what a lovely species coyotes as part of my clinical animal behavior MSc coursework. For example, John Bradshaw, a renowned anthrozoologist (someone that studies the intersection of animal and human worlds) and animal behavior scientist has noted that coyotes have been on our continent for at least one million years, far longer than we humans who arrived only 30,000 years ago. James Serpell, another famous anthrozoologist and animal ethicist has noted that had humans arrived to North America sooner than 30,000 years ago, coyotes would have domesticated and evolved into our pet domestic dogs tens of thousands of years before the extant gray wolves that eventually made that leap. When I see coyotes in person, observing them from a distance, I cannot help but be in awe of their beauty, grace, and uncanny behavioral resemblance to our domestic dogs. One of the coyote videos my husband and I made was actually featured by the Oregonian once! I believe that our wildlife, including coyotes, belong to all Oregonians, not just a few people that want to participate in large coyote killing contests.

I understand that many rural Oregonians do not like coyotes. Scientists have proven that killing large numbers of coyotes actually increases coyote populations because it destabilizes alpha members of local coyote populations. It does not make sense to kill coyotes en masse in a coyote killing contest if you do not like them because it will only make the problem worse! It is a fool's errand. Furthermore, these contests are unsporting and unbecoming of our state's hunting traditions. Coyote killing contests for cash and prizes demeans not only the coyotes, but the people that participate in such a game.

I respectfully ask you to send SB 723 to the floor for a vote. And to support the bill with your vote. Thank you for all that you do for our amazing state.

Cheers,
Mia Bonadonna, CCS, CPDT-KA
503/780-0060 (mobile)
MegaHeartsDogAndCat.com