



Please Vote YES on SB 723!

The above state and national organizations urge your support for SB 723, legislation to prohibit coyote killing contests, in which participants compete to kill the most coyotes for the chance to win cash and prizes.

- Oregon has a history of drawing the line at unfair and cruel practices that are out of step with our humane values. Contests that incentivize the indiscriminate killing of large numbers of animals are deeply at odds with the humane values of Oregonians, in both urban and rural areas. A recent poll by the Remington Research Group underscores those values, with a strong majority of Oregonians across all five Congressional districts supporting legislation to ban coyote killing contests.
- Coyote killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles. Numerous studies, including those cited in *Oregon Small Farm News*, an extension of the Oregon State University, underscore that science does not support indiscriminate, large-scale killing of coyotes as an effective means of reducing conflicts with pets or livestock, or even increasing numbers of game species. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs and increasing their rate of reproduction.
- Nothing in SB 723 will affect existing state laws that allow a year-round coyote hunting season, unlimited bag limits, and immediate lethal action to address conflicts with coyotes.
- The people of Oregon can value ethical hunting as a tradition and yet oppose practices that are considered extreme, cruel, and unsporting. Under the public trust doctrine, which is the bedrock of wildlife management, our wildlife is held in trust for the benefit of ALL Oregonians. Ending killing contests promotes the public trust in a way that comports with the values of responsible sportsmen and women and nonhunters alike.

For the above reasons, we urge the Oregon Senate to move swiftly to pass SB 723, to bring Oregon one step closer in following New Mexico's lead by banning a practice that violates the spirit and tenets of responsible stewardship, sportsmanship, and respect for the public's wildlife.

WJP Bank

From the Desk of Sen. Dembrow