

Exhibit for House Natural Resources Committee

On HB 4075

Submitted by:

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Ban Coyote Killing Contests in Oregon, Support HB 4075

I live in a rural area, with horses.

Coyote Killing Contests (like ones held in Burns area) offer rewards to participants who shoot indiscriminately hundreds of animals— be they vital alfa males or nursing mothers. Endangered wolves can easily be shot.

These mass killings defy basic practices of stewardship and “fair chase” by having so many people killing a species in one area during one period of time (usually a weekend). Innocent animals can hardly hide. Extreme and sudden population depletion can’t possibly be good for habitats, and I have observed in nature that such stress causes increased reproduction, not a decrease.

For me, I wish I had coyotes visiting my pastures more often as they keep in check the ground-digging rodents that leave dangerous holes in my pastures.

That said, banning killing contests does not stop a rancher from shooting a coyote. It stops damaging, inhumane, massive slaughtering of wildlife.

I've heard this bill be used as an "Eastern Oregon vs Western Oregon" issue, where representatives and senators from Eastern Oregon districts cry out that Western Oregon is trying to tell them what to do, trying to take away their "way of life".

I do not believe that such horrid cruelty should continue to be a "way of life". We are living in 2020, not 1820. Some ways of life need to be left to the past. If Eastern Oregon residents would stop activities and practices that are no longer sustainable, that are not in keeping with what our environment and populations can sustain, then legislation such as this ban on killing contests would not need to be enacted, because such horrid killing contests would not be held.

Furthermore, we all, as a society and community and a state, have to abide by being told "what to do" and what we cannot do. We stop at stop signs, because we are told to do so. We pay taxes, we wash our hands, we do an exhaustive list of things every day because we are, in essence, told to do so, because doing so is best for us and/or best for our community and safety and living. We are told what we cannot do and what we can no longer do, all of us, in order to live safely, protect each other and our wildlife and animals, to have a future worthy of our children.

Those few in Eastern Oregon who condone this cruelty as part of their “way of life” simply need to be told No. That is your job as our elected representatives in Salem.

Vermont, California, Massachusetts, Arizona, New Mexico have all enacted bans on coyote killing contests.

Please support HB 4075.

Thank you.

Jane Bicquette