

To the House Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 4075 to end the practice of coyote killing contests because I care deeply about our wildlife. While some claim this is a rural vs. urban issue, compassion and the humane, ethical treatment of our wildlife is a value of both rural and urban Oregonians alike. No state should allow such cruel and callous treatment of its wildlife. Turning the killing of coyotes into a form of entertainment for cash and prizes demonstrates a total disregard for good sportsmanship and lack of respect of the public's wildlife.

Science has shown that indiscriminate killing disrupts pack structure and can lead to an increase in coyote population through compensatory breeding and an increase in livestock losses. These contests are not a form of science-based wildlife management.

What is at stake in this bill is Oregon's ethics when it comes to our treatment of our wildlife. I believe Oregonians value the humane treatment and respect of the wildlife who share our landscape. To that end, please help us end coyote killing contests in Oregon once and for all!

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Joan Beldin

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