

This legislation will prevent a small minority of the population from recklessly slaughtering coyotes.

- **Hunter and Chairman of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Mike Finley has condemned wildlife killing contests, calling them “slaughter fests” and “stomach-turning examples of wanton waste.”**
- **Killing contests are a bloodsport like dogfighting and cockfighting.** Killing coyotes for thrills and prizes-with no respect for their intrinsic or ecological value-is senseless violence and waste.
- **Killing contests damage the reputation of responsible hunters by violating fundamental hunting ethics.** Countless animals are injured or orphaned during killing contests. The events put non-target species (including imperiled wolves) at risk.
- Five states have outlawed wildlife killing contests. In 2019, **New Mexico banned coyote killing contests and Arizona and Massachusetts prohibited them for furbearing and predatory species. Vermont banned coyote contests in 2018, and California prohibited the awarding of prizes for killing furbearing and nongame animals in 2014.**
- **Recent polling of Oregon voters found that a solid majority support an end to coyote killing contests in the state.**
- **More than 70 prominent conservation scientists have signed a statement condemning killing contests on ecological and ethical grounds.** There is no scientific evidence that indiscriminately killing coyotes reduces their populations, increases populations of game animals like deer, or protects livestock. Randomly killing coyotes disrupts their pack structure, which can increase their populations and increase conflicts with coyotes. Preventing conflicts with the use of humane, non-lethal methods is more effective.
- **Coyotes play an important ecological role in healthy ecosystems.** They reduce rabbit and rodent populations, keep environments free of animal carcasses, and increase biodiversity.
- **This bill is not a ban on hunting and does not impact other laws.** Individuals will still be allowed to hunt coyotes according to state laws. HB 4075 does not prohibit fishing tournaments or affect laws related to lethal control of specific, problem-causing coyotes.

We urge Oregon state lawmakers to follow in the footsteps of public officials and wildlife agencies in New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, California, and Vermont who have

*already banned wildlife and/or coyote killing contests by passing
HB 4075.*

—Dr. Kelly Dunn