

9, 2020

Dear Mr. Chairman Witt and members of the committee,

I am writing this letter to oppose HB4075.

First off this is a violation of our 1st Amendment Right. Our right as the people to peacefully assemble and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

Second, as cattle rancher in the high desert of eastern Oregon, we face many challenges in the cattle industry on top of fighting off coyotes during calving season. With the contests that have went on for the past ten years, it has helped very much take the pressure off our baby calves at birth. I can document that I have that I have not lost one calf to a coyote, but I do have the pressure and existence of coyotes almost every night. I do hunt them during calving season to keep the pressure off. I can only imagine what devastation it would be like if we did not have the contest to help on the coyote population.

If a coyote takes a calf at birth, it is like taking a paycheck from me. At an average, a calf is worth \$1000/hd and a cow is worth an average of \$1200/hd/yr. So in short, if I lost a calf due to coyote predation, I could loose more than \$2200.00. That is like someone stealing your paycheck.

Also, in the contest, every dog is retrieved and turned over to a furbearer for the purpose salvaging the hide for tanning and is sold, so no coyote is wasted.

If we were to have this bill pass, we will have to resort to the use of a helicopter at the expense of the landowner to shoot and kill coyotes. When this mode of predator control is used, none of the coyotes are salvaged, they are left.

I am an avid hunter and value my rights to hunt, so I feel this violates my rights. We hunt in these contest in the prime fur season when the furs are at their peak and also it is before calving season to alleviate the predation pressure.

So I am asking you and the members of the committee to stop and reject HB4075 for the sake of my right to hunt, right to peacefully assemble and or right to ranch in piece.

Respectfully,
Shane Otley
Cattle rancher