

Dear State of Oregon House Natural Resources Committee members,

We are writing to ask you to please pass the new bill, HB 4075, introduced to ban coyote-killing contests in Oregon.

In this modern era, killing contests have no place. Predators have been vilified for too long, and it is time to embrace positive changes and turn away from the established tradition of wanton killing of animals for simple entertainment.

Killing large numbers of predators as part of an organized contest is inconsistent with sound, science-based wildlife management and antithetical to the concepts of sportsmanship and fair chase.

Oregon has adopted the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that includes as a core principle that wildlife can only be killed for a legitimate purpose. Under the North American Model, wildlife is a shared resource that must not be wasted, and wildlife should never be killed for frivolous reasons. These killing contests, by contrast, are nothing but wanton waste and remove animals from the populations that are not known to be a problem and are simply performing their ecological role. That is why most state wildlife agencies, including ODFW, haven't supported or promoted killing contests as a responsible wildlife management tool.

Please support this new bill and make the changes necessary to stop future coyote killing contests in our great state.

Kind Regards,

John and Tricia Wardlaw
Bend, Oregon