

My name is Dan Elster, I'm a professional wildlife photographer based in Southern Oregon. I want to strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB 475 to ban coyote killing contests. I've spent a great deal of time observing and photographing wild coyotes in Oregon over the last decade and have personally observed them pursue, catch and consume countless rodents in rural/agricultural areas. Coyotes are beautiful, intelligent canines that play an important role in a variety of ecosystems. They should be respected and revered, not treated as varmin.

These contests are absolutely barbaric, cruel and unnecessary. They make the ethical hunting/sportsman community look terrible. Even Mike Finley of Fish and Wildlife has acknowledged that these events are "stomach turning". Sanctioned slaughters of *Canis Latrans* has also proven to be 100% ineffective at controlling coyote populations. There is growing evidence that contests actually have the opposite effect and result in larger litters dispersing into wider areas. Coyote populations self regulate with little or no help from us.

I hope Oregon will join New Mexico, Massachusetts, Arizona, Vermont and California in ending the slaughter of an American original!

Please vote yes on HB 4075 to end these contests.

Dan Elster

<http://www.elsterphotography.com>