

Hello,

With the upcoming hearing, I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this issue, and my hope is that after reviewing the information you would be willing to support legislation to ban coyote killing contests.

I have attached the following scientific research and/or citations that underscore the fact that coyote killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles.

- A 2018 article published by the **Oregon State University Extension Program in the Oregon Small Farm News**, [Using Coyotes to Protect Livestock. Wait. What?](#) The article underscores that lethal control of coyotes only increased livestock losses and that coyotes with no record of livestock depredation, and who have established themselves in a territory that overlaps with sheep pastures, can prevent livestock losses by excluding coyotes from neighboring packs which may have learned to kill sheep.
- Testimony by Dr. Rob Wielgus* and Mike Finley, former chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from last session in support of the previous coyote killing contest bill. (*Attached*)
- Scientific opinion from Dr. Bob Crabtree (leading coyote researcher) regarding “what effects does a reduction of coyotes (older than six months) have on the remaining population?” (*Attached.*)
- Citing peer reviewed science, more than [70 scientists signed a letter](#) refuting claims that coyote killing contests and/or mass and indiscriminate killing of coyotes reduce livestock losses, boost ungulate populations or effectively reduce coyote populations.
- Recent NPR story, [Killing Coyotes Is Not As Effective As Once Thought, Researchers Say](#)
- Todd Wilkinson’s lengthy article in the Mountain Journal, [A Death Of Ethics: Is Hunting Destroying Itself?](#)
- Proposed legislation would not prohibit anyone from hunting coyotes or taking predatory animals, or the lethal control of predating coyotes. In short, there is no closed season or bag limits for taking coyotes. The laws and regulations related to trapping coyotes are unaffected by the proposed law. Specifically:
 - *ORS 610.105, “Any person owning, leasing, occupying, possessing or having charge of or dominion over any land, place, building, structure, wharf, pier or dock which is infested with ground squirrels and other noxious rodents or predatory animals, as soon as their presence comes to the knowledge of the person, may, or the agent of the person may, proceed immediately and continue in good faith to control them by poisoning, trapping or other appropriate and effective means.”*

**Dr. Rob Wielgus, internationally acclaimed large carnivore expert and former director of the Large Carnivore Conservation Lab at Washington State University who currently lives in Bend, Oregon.*

Thanks again for your time and consideration,

Katie Gray, DVM
HSVMA Oregon State Representative