

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

**Please vote YES on HB 4075** to end cruel and unnecessary coyote killing contests in our state. Oregon should join the states which have ended these barbaric contests where hunters win guns or other prizes for needlessly killing coyotes in unsporting practices that do nothing to reduce coyote conflicts for ranchers.

I am a retired clinical social worker, and I know that encouraging people to kill for prizes and fun, as opposed to more sportsmanlike hunting of prey animals like deer, devalues life and is bad for the psyche of the humans doing the needless killing. Killing for food is one thing, killing more conscious and social animals that survive as a pack, is another.

I attended the public hearing in the House Committee about this bill, and heard from experts that killing coyotes in large numbers in any area actually causes more conflicts with ranchers and livestock killings, due to the way coyotes compensate for vacated territories by large increases in procreation, and also compensatory immigration of other coyotes into vacated areas. Please note the science and vote to ban these awful contests that make Oregon look bad, and are totally unnecessary.

Please pass this bill.

Laurel Hines, retired LCSW, rural Salem, Oregon