

Good morning Senate Rules Committee --

I live in Eastern Oregon and spend lots of time on public lands, hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, and studying rivers. I fully support ending coyote killing contests in Oregon. I value coyotes and enjoy my rare encounters with them -- as they hunt for ground squirrels or pass through groups of cows grazing on public lands. In the several times I've seen them passing through groups of cows, I saw no agitation. One or two might have looked up but then went right back to grazing. So the hype about conflicts between cattle and coyotes is just that -- hype. Does this mean that there is never an incident - no, but when livestock are managed properly and gathered in groups, conflicts are rare. If ranchers are concerned, then there are other, more proactive ways that will not only help decrease their concerns but improve overall husbandry.

Coyotes play an important role in helping to keep numbers of ground squirrels, voles and other small mammals in balance. They belong here and are part of our wildlife legacy. Repeatedly killing coyotes just sets up more potential conflicts as other coyotes move into newly vacated territories. Coyote killing contests are blood sport. They do not represent ethical hunting and have no place in Oregon. Again, as an eastern Oregonian, I fully support ending these contests and urge you to bring this bill to a vote.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fouty
Baker City, OR