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March 2, 2020

The Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4075A to prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Gray from Cheshire in Lane County Oregon. I am a veterinarian and the Oregon representative for the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) here in support of HB 4075A, which would end cruel coyote killing contests in Oregon. HSVMA is a nationwide association of 9,200 veterinary professionals—including approximately 360 Oregon members—with a focus on the health and welfare of all animals, including native carnivores like coyotes.

Indiscriminately killing unlimited numbers of coyotes for prizes and entertainment is fundamentally inhumane and is not a science-based wildlife management strategy. Scientific studies demonstrate that unselective killing of coyotes can lead to the disruption of the social structure which may result in increased rates of reproduction and predation of livestock. HB 4075A does not prohibit hunting, trapping, or the lethal control of coyotes.

By increasing penalties for poaching, the Oregon legislature has traditionally supported the reputation of Oregon's sportsmen and sportswomen who follow hunting ethics. Coyote killing contests violate the spirit of fair chase hunting and do not target coyotes responsible for livestock depredation or sites where depredation is occurring. Furthermore, the enthusiasm for the indiscriminate killing of wildlife for entertainment is cruel and wasteful and does not reflect the values of most Oregonians.

The HSVMA joins a broad coalition of animal protection groups in urging you to pass HB 4075A, and we encourage all members of the Oregon Legislature to support this critical humane legislation.

Thank you for your time and your leadership on behalf of animals.

Katie Gray, DVM