

Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

I strongly urge you all to support HB 4075, the bill to prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon.

During recent testimony in the House, many opponents of HB 4075 said this bill epitomizes the cultural divide between urban and rural Oregonians. That characterization of the bill suggests that the majority of rural Oregonians approve of coyote killing contests. I refuse to accept that premise because it implies that rural Oregonians are incapable of understanding the science showing that these killing contests do nothing to protect livestock or increase ungulate numbers. It also paints rural Oregonians as people who support unethical "hunting" and animal cruelty.

Ignorant, unethical, and cruel does not describe any of the rural Oregonians I know. I sincerely believe that it is a very vocal minority in the rural parts of our state who are fighting to maintain the right to continue these contests. The majority of Oregonians, urban and rural, share a long cultural tradition of valuing and respecting the state's wildlife.

Please end coyote killing contests in Oregon by supporting HB 4075.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Pamela Brunet Comeleo
Corvallis, OR