

I urge you to support HB 4075 which would prohibit gruesome coyote killing contests, that have occurred throughout Oregon over the past few years and offer cash prizes and/or guns for the winner who kills the most coyotes within a certain time period. These contests allow for easy kills by luring coyotes into the open with high-tech calling devices, where the sole purpose is to kill as many coyotes as possible for cash and prizes.

Motivated by financial rewards, these contests are grossly out of step with the ethics of fair chase, modern, science-based wildlife management and Oregon's conservation centered values. In fact, a poll by the Remington Research Group, found that a large majority of Oregonians throughout the state want a ban on such nefarious activities. Not only cruel and callous, the contests send the wrong message—one of disregard for wildlife rather than of sportsmanship, good stewardship, and respect for the public's wildlife.

During last year's session, the Oregon Legislature overwhelmingly passed bi-partisan legislation to increase the penalties for wildlife poaching. The reason for that support was because of the strong distain for wanton waste and irresponsible hunting of our state's wildlife, not dissimilar to coyote killing contests. To that end, HB 4075 is also a matter of ethics and ethical hunting of Oregon's wildlife. Please support HB 4075.

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