

Senate Rules Committee:

My name is Ted Chu. I live about four miles up the North Fork of the Nehalem River in Tillamook County where I own a home and am a full time resident. I am a wildlife biologist by passion and profession now retired. I have hunted all my life and most recently hunted elk, grouse and quail in Oregon in 2019.

I taught gun safety and hunter education for many years. We stressed the importance of careful stalking to get in position to make as quick and humane a kill as possible. We discouraged any notion that hunting was a contest between hunters. We also especially emphasized that ethical hunters kill no more than they need and that getting a limit every time is not the primary goal of hunting. We taught that good use should be made of all kills, beginning in the field right through final preparation of delicious healthy food to be shared with friends and family and being able to do that is a valuable skill. Hunting is a traditional outdoor activity which encourages people to learn the habits and habitats of the animals they seek. It is often a family activity including camping, cooking and campfire time.

Hunting contests did not exist in those days so we didn't address them. Now they are common and although a relatively small percentage of hunters participate in them they have an out sized influence in how hunting and hunters are judged by the public and it's not favorable. Hunting is under a microscope and we need to work to keep it defensible. Encouraging the killing for prizes of as many as possible of a beautiful native species that most people enjoy seeing and love hearing does not project the best image of hunting and hunters. We don't need to make a competition out of killing coyotes or other native species for that matter.

HB4075A will not prevent people from hunting coyotes. It will only stop making a contest celebration out of their killing. People who believe coyotes should be reduced in favor of game species can still shoot them even though studies have found that killing coyotes stimulates increased reproduction with the surviving animals breeding younger and having larger litters. Research also found that established territorial coyote families are the least likely to come in conflict with humans and livestock.

I urge the adoption of HB4075A. It will be a positive step for Oregon and for hunting in Oregon.

P.S. We enjoy the occasional coyote we see in our backyard and love to be awakened by them in the middle of the night. We hope they are actually helping us with our garden rodent pests and keeping the deer out of the blueberries and away from our young apple trees.

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