

RE: HB 2728 - Support

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2728 and ban coyote killing contests in Oregon. These contests are unsporting, but more than that they are unethical and extreme. All wildlife deserves to be treated respectfully.

It is well documented that, like all predators, coyotes have key roles in healthy, functioning ecosystems. They help to keep their natural prey, such as rodents and small mammals, in bounds. Furthermore, [research](#) has shown that undisrupted coyote packs can actually prevent livestock losses. In contrast, efforts to exterminate them cause coyotes to [increase their rate of reproduction](#) and turn to larger prey like livestock instead of their normal diet of rabbits and rodents.

Over seventy prominent [conservation scientists have signed a statement](#) decrying the practice of killing contests. It is imperative that we use the best available science to support our wildlife practices.

A strong majority of Oregonians from all five Congressional districts [support the ideas behind this bill](#). This is not a rural vs urban issue. Rather, this is about how we value and treat the public's wildlife. These killing contests are wasteful slaughter, and taint the reputation of ethical hunters.

While HB 2728 is a good step in the right direction, I wish it went further, as in the original version of 2019's [SB 723](#). I would like to see legislation that prevents these killing contests for all wildlife, that such regulation would apply equally to nonprofit organizations, and that violations would result in a substantial penalty.

There simply is no way to justify a coyote killing contest. They do not hold up to scientific or ethical scrutiny, and instead promote wasteful violence and disrupt natural processes.

Be humane. Please pass the strongest possible version of HB 2728.

Thank you for your consideration,
Susan Mates