

Dear Committee Members,

I believe that very few Oregonians are aware that coyote killing contests exist let alone continue to occur in Oregon. Killing as many animals as possible for cash, prizes and entertainment violates Oregonians' humane values and the spirit of traditional hunting ethics and damages Oregon's reputation. Ethics aside, scientific studies do not support indiscriminate mass killing of coyotes as an effective means of reducing coyote populations or minimizing conflicts with pets or livestock or increasing numbers of game species. Studies show that by killing members of stable family packs, an increased rate of reproduction can occur in future generations.

This is not an example of the urban and rural divide. A majority of Oregonians in both urban and rural areas care about the state's wild animals and find this type of entertainment cruel and irresponsible and a complete disrespect for life, particularly if they knew. The groups sponsoring these contests keep them under close wraps to keep the general public from knowing about them.

Oregon needs to follow in the footsteps of Washington, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts and Vermont who have already banned wildlife/coyote killing contests by passing HB 2728.

Thank you in advance.