

I am urging you all to support HB 2728 and put an end to gruesome, cruel, and senseless killing of coyotes. It disgusts me to my core that some "people" think slaughtering animals is a fun recreational activity. It is sick and it is a slap in the face to all tax paying Oregonians who value wildlife and wild places.

Oregon's wildlife is managed for all Oregonians, and it is a grave violation of the state's duty to allow individuals to wantonly kill Oregon's wildlife, a public resource, as part of a cruel blood contest. HB 2728 is good for farmers, good for hunters, and good for wildlife. Science proves that randomly killing coyotes increases conflict with livestock, and these contests cast Oregon's ethical hunters in a bad light. HB 2728 is legislation that is perfectly aligned with Oregon's values, the best available science, and broad public support. It is far past time for Oregon to move beyond senselessly killing predators and allowing a bunch of small-minded rednecks with guns to kill wildlife, at the expense of greater good, public sentiment, and sound environmental science.

Washington State, Colorado and five other states have prohibited killing contests, and it is time for Oregon to do the same. Allowing a small group of individuals to engage in wanton waste of a wildlife species as part of a contest is a grave violation of the state's solemn duty to protect this public interest by managing wildlife in trust for all Oregonians. 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.

Cruel and callous coyote killing contests send a message of disregard for wildlife rather than of sportsmanship, good stewardship, and respect for the public's wildlife. HB 2728 is a matter of ethics and ethical hunting of Oregon's wildlife. In fact, a recent poll by the Remington Research Group found that a strong majority of Oregonians, in all five congressional districts, support legislation to ban coyote killing contests. The Statesman Journal also supports a ban, editorializing that "Oregon doesn't need coyote killing contests."

Moreover, coyote killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles. Numerous studies, including those cited in Oregon Small Farm News, an extension of the Oregon State University, underscore that science does not support indiscriminate, large scale, mass killing of coyotes as an effective means of reducing coyote populations, minimizing conflicts with pets or livestock, or increasing numbers of game species. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs and increasing their rate of reproduction.

Please support HB 2728 and put an end to coyote killing contests, now.

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