

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger, and members of the committee,

My name is Elizabeth Sauer and I am writing in support of House Bill 2728, which seeks to end the cruel practice of coyote hunting contests.

Coyote-killing contests are cruel, show a lack of appreciation and respect for wildlife, and serve no useful purpose. Hunters who believe in accepted standards of ethical hunting also oppose coyote-killing contests because they are inconsistent with the ethical hunting principles of respect and appreciation for wildlife.

In fact, former chair of the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission supported a previous version of this bill because experts understand that the indiscriminate killing of native carnivores such as coyotes will not protect farm animals and other wildlife. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs, causing more reproduction.

A number of other states have already banned wildlife and/or coyote-killing contests: New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, California, and Vermont. So we know it can work for Oregon.

It is vital that all of us work as stewards of Oregon's wildlife, and supporting House Bill 2728 reflects this commitment to fair treatment of wildlife. And that means ending the cruel hunting of coyotes for sport.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Sauer