

## Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 2728

### Relating to the prohibition of contests for the taking of coyotes for cash or prizes

I am opposed to H.B 2728 for a number of reasons. This bill is another example of emotions overriding objective facts.

- 1) The coyote is considered a predator in Oregon and can be legally hunted year-round with no limits on the numbers taken.
- 2) The coyote is a native species in the arid west, but has been expanding its range over the last 100 years or so. Thus, it can be considered an invasive species in western Oregon and northeastern Oregon's forested areas.
- 3) When coyotes kill larger prey like deer, sheep, and calves, they usually start by attacking the tender areas of the animal, typically the areas around the soft underbelly or the anus of the animal. The prey may or may not be dead at this point. They are by no means a noble predator.
- 4) The difference between an individual hunting coyotes by themselves or as part of an organized coyote hunting event is most likely minimal. Arguments that the organized event encourages wanton suffering of wounded coyotes for hours or days are specious. The behavior of an individual hunter is likely the same whether hunting individually or as part of an event. If there are documented examples of wounded coyotes suffering needlessly during an event, it is extremely likely that the responsible individuals behave the same way when hunting alone. The vast majority of hunters are responsible and ethical, and would not leave a wounded animal to suffer.

I oppose H.B. 2728 since it attempts to eliminate a valid method of controlling coyote populations. I do not believe that the evils ascribed to organized events truly exist.

Thank you for considering my testimony.