

I urge you to please support House Bill 2728 and join California, Washington and five other states in banning coyote killing contests. These wildlife killing contests are terribly cruel, violate the spirit and tenets of responsible stewardship and ethical sportsmanship, and they have no beneficial ecological effects on ecosystems, coyote populations or game populations. The same as with wolves, killing coyotes can actually disrupt their pack, making them disorganized and more likely to go after unusual prey, and \*increase\* predation. It may in fact actually increase their breeding and their population in rebounds as well, exacerbating conflicts further.

Last year, more than 500 coyotes were cruelly and indiscriminately killed in coyote killing contests in Oregon. And last month alone, in January 2021, more than 272 coyotes were gruesomely killed in a two-day killing contest that occurred in Southeast Oregon. It is time to put an end to this murderous and backwards bloodsport. HB 2728 has bi-partisan legislative support and is in line with Oregon's values and with the best available science, and it has broad public support. Coyotes play a very important role in our ecosystems, reducing populations of rodents and rabbits, cleaning up animal carcasses, and increasing biodiversity. It is time to pass HB 2728 and put an end to backwards coyote killing contests once and for all.