

Coexistence was not meant for our species alone.

My name is Billie and I believe that as a species, humans should fight for respect, safety, and coexistence among all beings. Wildlife killing contests for the purpose of meaningless prizes or senseless thrills, not only detracts the species being targeted, but the cohesive and nature-loving community that as Oregonians we strive to maintain.

Every organism in an ecosystem plays a crucial role in the functionality, disbursement of species, and primary productivity of that ecosystem. Oregon is comprised of ecosystems that are full of biodiversity and offer its residents many recreational and scenic values. Oregon is also among the 40+ states that still allow the implementation of coyote killing contests.

The ecological roles of Coyotes include mitigating rodent populations, increasing biodiversity, and even acting as nature's janitors; they clean up dead things! These resilient carnivores help maintain and contribute to what as Oregonians we love so much, the great outdoors.

The purpose of this bill is not to create anger among certain groups or separate the community of outdoor-loving Oregonians that we are, but rather it is to stand up for a species that cannot stand up for itself. We are their voice, we are their protection, and we are the ones who will ensure their long and prosperous existence.

Thank you and I hope we can all come together to safeguard the coyote, and the importance this animal plays in our lives; directly or indirectly.