

I strongly support HB 2728. Killing contests are not representative of ethical hunting, serve no purpose for wildlife management, degrade the public image of Oregon, and only serve the purpose of satisfying the killers' need for blood sport. The participants of these contests are posing a threat to public safety by killing coyotes indiscriminately all over the state. The images that they post on social media of dead animals strung from fences and piled in trucks is sickening and as a mother I have a very hard time finding any words to justify this behavior when asked by children "why?" This is a blatant waste of wildlife and since coyotes are compensatory breeders, killing coyotes en masse can actually cause coyotes to produce more litters. I urge you to listen to the science- killing contests serve no purpose other than to satisfy the need to kill wild animals for being wild animals. These contests do nothing to eliminate problem coyotes- ranchers and farmers who are having a problem with an individual coyote or pack of coyotes can still eliminate the problem animals. I love visiting Oregon for its natural beauty and rich culture. I believe sending a message to the rest of the country that Oregon will not stand for this type of unethical slaughter will strengthen the case for tourism by those who truly love and enjoy nature. Please honor wildlife. Honor nature. Honor science. Do the right thing and eliminate these despicable contests for good in the state of Oregon.