

Please vote in favor of this long awaited bill. Seven states have banned "killing contests" and others are working on similar bills. There is no acceptable reason for any individual or organization to be offering incentives in the forms of cash and prizes to kill the largest number of animals. Though some deny that is the goal, by its very nature, a contest encourages killing the most with the hope of winning a prize for a particular category; Biggest, heaviest, smallest, etc. The more entries submitted, the better the chances of winning one of the categories. This is not unlike a gambling event. Wildlife, including coyotes which are critical to healthy biodiversity, should not be pawns in this unethical game of chance. We've all seen the photos which represent the ultimate in wanton waste, and for the most part, participants don't seem to represent the average hunter. In fact they are rather quickly dragging down the image of ALL hunters. I will assume that normal hunting regulations will remain unchanged if this bill passes. Thank you for reading my testimony and I trust that you will promote a strong and clear message that all wildlife should be treasured and that no species should ever be taken for granted or wasted in "contests" for "fun and prizes".