



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2728
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 8, 2021

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2728, which would prohibit organized contests that award prizes for killing the most coyotes. Among other reasons:

- Coyote-killing contests show a lack of respect and appreciation for wildlife. As such, they are inconsistent with generally accepted principles of ethical hunting. (*See <https://www.gohunt.com/read/life/the-importance-of-hunting-ethics-and-values>.*)
- Coyote-killing contests are cruel and inhumane because they inflict pain, suffering and death on large numbers of animals for no good reason. (See below.)
- Contrary to the claims of the few who defend these contests, data and science show that coyote-killing contests are not necessary or effective to protect farm animals or other wildlife. (*See joint testimony of conservation groups submitted by Humane Society of the United States; [Coyote Carnage: The Gruesome Truth about Wildlife Killing Contests, Yale School of the Environment \(May 22, 2018\)](#).*)
- Because coyote-killing contests result in killing wildlife for no legitimate purpose, they are inconsistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is widely credited with restoring wildlife to the United States after decimation from commercial exploitation in 19th Century. (*See [North American of Wildlife Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hunting](#).*)
- By making a game out of killing as many living things as possible, coyote-killing contests are inconsistent with ordinary humane values. Even if they provided some marginal benefit (and we do not think they do), that benefit would be outweighed by the damage they do with our emotions of compassion for other living things.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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