

Please Support HB 2728 to Prohibit Coyote Killing Contests in Oregon

Oregon's wildlife is managed for the benefit of all Oregonians, present and future.

HB 2728 would prohibit gruesome coyote killing contests, which have occurred throughout Oregon over the past few years. These contests offer cash prizes and/or guns for the winner who kills the most, the largest, or the smallest coyotes within a certain time-period. Participants lure coyotes in for an easy kill using high-tech electronic calling devices that mimic the sounds of coyote pups in distress. The sole purpose of these events is to kill as many coyotes as possible for cash and prizes. Washington State, Colorado and five other states have prohibited killing contests, and it's time for Oregon to do the same.

Allowing a small group of individuals to engage in wanton waste of a wildlife species as part of a contest is a grave violation of the state's solemn duty to protect this public interest by managing wildlife in trust for all Oregonians.

Motivated by financial rewards, these contests are grossly out of step with the ethics of fair chase, modern, science-based wildlife management, and Oregon's conservation centered values. Cruel and callous coyote killing contests send a message of disregard for wildlife rather than of sportsmanship, good stewardship, and respect for the public's wildlife.

HB 2728 is a matter of ethics and ethical hunting of Oregon's wildlife.

In fact, a recent poll by the Remington Research Group found that a strong majority of Oregonians, in all five congressional districts, support legislation to ban coyote killing contests. The Statesman-Journal also supports a ban, editorializing that "Oregon doesn't need coyote-killing contests."

Thank you for your consideration.

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