

Members of the Committee,

I ask you to look further into SB 723 before voting and then vote No. This issue is deeper than just contests for killing coyotes. The lack of CRP included in the Farm Bill has taken food (rodents) away from the coyotes and they have turned to game birds and newborn deer and elk, quite often waiting in the fields as they are giving birth. If you talk to ranchers in Eastern Oregon I am sure that you will hear of many calves that are taken at a very young age as well. I do hunt birds, big game and fish every year and pay a very large amount in fees and ammunition taxes to support wildlife, which includes the population deer and elk that is declining rapidly due to coyote & cougar predation. Another concern of mine is the way that the bill was written originally, this could open the door for people who have fishing tournaments such as "Kings for Kids" and the Tuna tourney for the Oregon Food Bank. It could also target AKC Field Trials with dogs where released game farm birds are used. Again I ask that you look further into the reasons that we have these issues with coyotes before voting on this bill, then vote No.

Thank you,
John Lewis