

To Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter in Opposition of SB 723. As a wife, mother, cattle rancher and animal lover in rural eastern Oregon, I feel that this bill is an overreach with so many other bills being presented and reviewed. I feel this is yet another bill that is taking more of our freedoms and rights away from us that has no justification or facts, just an emotional statement that is pushed through by the left. As a cattle rancher and a food provider for the world, I know these coyote contests help our ranch as far as coyote predation on our livestock, especially during calving season. We have personally found cows fighting off coyotes after they gave birth to a newborn. If coyotes don't eat the calf, the mother cow tramples her newborn calf to death, fighting off the predator. This makes a huge financial impact to our operation if we lose a calf due to coyotes. Not only do we lose the calf, but as a business decision we are forced to sell the cow because she is not in production. This financial number can be as high as \$14000.00 per cow, taking into consideration the calf production we would lose from her each year she would normally remain on the ranch. Cattle are the #1 economic base in our county, so it causes a financial impact to our community.

As for the contests that take place, they help our local town businesses financially in the winter months when tourism is down and they also help relieve coyote predation on ranchers livestock herds. Over the years that these contests have taken place, the numbers of coyotes taken per contest is less than one dog per contestant. Also it is one coyote per 75 square miles of private land in Harney County alone. Every coyote that is taken in these contests is lawfully taken and retrieved, brought back to the event and then bought by a fur bearer for the hide to be processed. Therefore, the coyote is not wasted and is sold to be used for clothing and other purposes, which in turn brings economic dollars back to our rural community. Being raised and living my whole life in rural Oregon, I feel that these contests are a valuable tool and ethical way in helping ranchers stay in business in our communities. It relieves the financial burden off the livestock producers, relieves predation on deer, antelope, pheasant, and the Sage Grouse along with many other wildlife species. The hunting contests will never eliminate the coyote populations, but will keep them at a manageable, sustainable and healthy level. Again, as a rancher, wife, mother and animal lover, I strongly ask that you oppose SB 723.

Crystal Otley - Cattle Rancher
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