

animal wellness action

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February 28th 2019

Good morning Chair Prozanski and members of the committee. Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Emily AhYou and I'm a resident of Clackamas County. Today I'm here as a constituent but also as a volunteer with a new animal protection group called Animal Wellness Action. I'm the organization's new Oregon state director. On behalf of myself and **Animal Wellness Action** we ask that you help us stop animal cruelty by **supporting the ban on coyote killing contests in Oregon. (SB 723-2).**

My husband & I own a small business in Oregon City but we spend the majority of our free time recreating in the outdoors of this state. We are both avid mountain bikers, and skiers. I kayak, he's an avid fisherman and we both like to bird watch, which my husband got into while pursuing his biology degree. We spend time in Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Baker, Linn, Lane, Deschutes, Hood River, & Malheur counties along with Clackamas & Washington counties closer to home. My family & I spend a good deal of money supporting local businesses in these counties on food, gear, and recreation park fees. (On more than one occasion we've spent money at local hospitals treating injuries we've sustained during our recreating!). Oregon's wildlife belongs to us as much as it does to the ranchers, farmers and hunters of this state. The people opposing this ban tell you that it's only the city people, the Multnomah county residents, that want these killing contests stopped, which is untrue. They claim to be the only ones that know about the nature of these animals, and the risks out there in non urban areas. They accuse those concerned about the suffering of animals of appealing to emotions. But *they* are confusing emotion with ethics. This type of indiscriminate killing and wasteful discarding of Oregon's wildlife that takes place during killing contests is distasteful to the vast majority of Oregonians; rural, suburban, and urban folks alike. It goes against common sense and human decency. This bill is not a ban on hunting. This bill is about banning a blood sport. This bill is about respect for Oregon's indigenous wildlife. It's about preventing the killing of sentient beings simply for fun, for bragging rights, for cash and prizes. Just like cock fighting and dog fighting, these malicious forms of entertainment no longer have a legitimate place in a civilized society. It's time we buried this blood sport in the past along with other, once commonly practiced forms of cruelty for entertainment. Again, on behalf of myself, and the new organization I represent, **Animal Wellness Action**, please support this important bill.

Respectfully,

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