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Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate

State of Oregon

March 18, 2019

Re. Support SB 723

Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 723 which will outlaw coyote killing “contests” in our state. These wanton killing horrors have no place in a civilized society that values the ethical and humane treatment of animals. Not only do these murderous events fly in the face of science-based wildlife management, they disregard the moral imperatives of good sportsmanship, ethical stewardship and respect for wildlife. There are many, many studies that show that indiscriminate killing of native predators does not protect livestock and does not increase game species. There are absolutely no reasons why these events should be allowed to exist, and still this violent ignorance persists.

Additionally, as a teacher, I know that children who are exposed to wanton violence and encouraged to hurt and kill animals often end up hurting and sometimes killing others, both human and non-human animals. These “contests” encourage these experiences, rewarding the most kills with prizes and entertainment. Surely, this does not have any place in an ethical society.

SB 723 is an opportunity to end these atrocities. I urge you to do the right thing.

Diana Huntington