

Dear Senator Prozanski and the Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support of SB 723-2, the proposed ban on coyote killing contests in the state of Oregon. As you may be aware, the purpose of these contests are to indiscriminately kill as many coyotes as possible for cash and prizes. Not only is this practice cruel beyond belief, there is no scientific or management significance behind it.

Coyotes are native wildlife that live in complex social structures and are incredibly well adapted to some of the most strenuous environments. Their diet consists mostly of small rodents, not domestic cattle as some would suggest, and when allowed to live freely they naturally self regulate their population because only alpha pack members to breed. Moreover, the reckless killing of coyotes actually positively impacts population sizes because when dominant individuals are removed, beta individuals will breed. It is a fact that when an alpha female is killed, beta females will come into estrus.

As your constituent in Douglas County, Oregon and a wildlife biologist I would remiss to leave out a larger philosophical issue, which is that it is not the coyote's encroachment on us, but rather our encroachment on them that has created this issue. Government leases on range land, numbering acres by the hundreds of thousands have shrunk and fragmented the space available to native wildlife that have called this land home since before we arrived on this continent. The least we can do is protect the right to life of animals who are doing no harm and ban these contests once and for all.

Thank you for thoughtfully considering this bill and I hope you will vote with me on this issue.

Kindly,

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