



SB 723 prohibits hunting & fishing contests

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and committee members.

WE STONGLY OPPOSE SB 723. We are a family that at times have depended on hunting and fishing for food. There is no better way to teach young people the respect of sports that gathering with other experienced people in a fun contest setting.

This bill criminalizes all hunting and fishing contests and not just the coyote killing contests that all the supporting testimony write about. They are uninformed of the dangers hungry coyotes are to rural communities. When coyotes can't find food in the wild, they turn to farms. These aggressive predators need to be disposed of and better to have an organized hunt than wait until they mangle a child and the state is responsible. Coyotes are very destructive animals that can only be properly controlled with these types of hunts that includes prizes or payoff, because the animal itself isn't worth hunting to a hunter.

Having a contest for either hunting or fishing is not harmful to anyone and teaches good practices. We need to keep teaching our children how to hunt and fish so they learn to respect handling their guns and not relate it to a video game. This will prohibit youth hunting camps or other such rifle or bow training camps. It will prohibit fishing derbies, even if event is held on private property. Fishing contests are revenue generating festivals that helps communities.

Use reason and not emotion and Vote NO.

Donna Bleiler  
FAST Legacy