

Yes on HB 723

I cannot attend the hearing but urge the Committee to pass HB 723.

It is a very important bill that has a lot of public support. There are no real valid reasons for such contests; they are bad for people, bad for animals. Here are some other reasons to help this bill go forward:

- Oregon has a history of drawing the line at unfair and inhumane practices that are out of step with our humane values. Coyote killing contests are completely at odds with ethical, fair-chase hunting.
- SB 723 is not an urban vs. rural issue. This is about the state of Oregon, and how Oregonians value and treat the public's wildlife. We can value hunting as a tradition and establish restrictions on practices that are cruel and unsporting.
- Oregon's wildlife, including coyotes, belong to all of us including, the majority of Oregonians who are non-hunters.
- A recent public opinion poll commissioned by Remington Research Group indicated a strong majority of Oregonians support legislation to ban coyote killing contests across all five congressional districts.
- Studies show that the indiscriminate killing of native carnivores like coyotes will not protect livestock, and will not increase game species. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs, causing more reproduction.
- There is nothing in SB 723 that would prevent lethal action from addressing conflicts with coyotes or reducing year-round hunting seasons for coyotes or their unlimited bag limits.
- Oregon should follow in New Mexico's humane footsteps by being the next state in the west to ban coyote killing contests.

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