

# animal wellness action

June 17, 2019

To The House Committee On Rules

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily AhYou and I am the Oregon State Director for Animal Wellness Action, a national animal protection group. My time and work are volunteered for this organization. I am a resident of Clackamas county. I'm here today to ask that you help us stop animal cruelty by supporting SB 723 to ban coyote killing contests.

SB 723 is not a ban on hunting coyotes. It bans the mass and wasteful slaughter of these animals for the purpose of winning a prize. Killing contests violate the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and are unsportsmanlike and inhumane. All you have to do is watch film footage of these contests to know the truth. Only a small amount of people engages and enjoy these activities. But Oregon is filled with compassionate people throughout our state that find these contests cruel and wasteful. It has been very heartening to see the responsible hunters come out and testify in support of this bill. Constituents from every county in Oregon have contacted their legislators in support of banning these contests.

It is utterly false that this is an issue of urban and rural dichotomy. The reason you keep hearing this argument is because it's the only straw opponents of this bill can grasp. They cannot defend the indefensible so they keep using this divisive strategy, hoping it will stick. The truth is the vast majority of Oregonians, rural, suburban and urban citizens alike are abhorred by this practice and want it stopped.

Opponents of this bill accuse those concerned about the suffering and waste of animals of appealing to emotions. But they are confusing emotions with ethics. Killing contests go against common sense, science, and human decency. This bill is about respect for Oregon's indigenous wildlife. It's about preventing the killing of sentient beings simply for fun, bragging rights, for cash, and prizes. Just like cock fighting and dog fighting, these malicious forms of brutality for pleasure no longer have a legitimate place in a civilized society. It's time Oregon buried this blood sport in the past along with other archaic forms of cruelty for sport.

The fate of Oregon's wildlife is of concern to us all, not just ranchers, farmers and sport hunters. We have a right to see that these animals are treated humanely and respectfully. Please help us by supporting this important bill. Thank you.

Helping animals helps us all.

[animalwellnessaction.org](http://animalwellnessaction.org)

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