

Dear House Natural Resources Committee:

I urge you to support HB 4075 to end the cruel, brutal and inhumane coyote killing contests in Oregon.

Coyotes are killed mercilessly by individuals seeking cash prizes and/or guns or simply for "entertainment." Gruesome evidence has been presented through videos of these animals being lured into the open by high-tech calling devices, then callously shot. Terrified, the animals suffer from their wounds while desperately attempting to escape amid the chaos as the shooters brutally kill as many coyotes as possible to receive prizes. Sadly, many of these individuals are entertained by the suffering and killing of these animals.

Coyote killing contests are motivated by financial rewards and exhibit a complete disregard for wildlife, sportsmanship, good stewardship and are not supported by science-based wildlife management and biologists. Coyotes play an important part in the ecosystem by controlling vermin and are necessary for keeping the populations of other animals in check.

Coyote killing contests send the wrong message that wildlife is disposable. Our wildlife is not disposable, coyotes are not disposable! These gruesome contests are inhumane and a blot on the State of Oregon's reputation that is known for treasuring and preserving its wildlife. Coyote killing contests have no place in Oregon!

Please extend a lifeline to Oregon's beleaguered coyotes. These beautiful animals deserve to live out their lives peacefully.

Whereas, I respectfully request that you support HB 4075 to permanently ban coyote killing contests in Oregon!

Thank you for your time.

June Stephens