



February 9, 2020

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland and our 17,000 members in strong support of HB 4075 which would ban coyote killing contests. Audubon Society of Portland has a long history of being involved in coyote management issues including playing a lead role in promoting humane and ecologically responsible management strategies in the Portland Metro Area. Audubon Society of Portland partners with Portland State University on the [Portland Urban Coyote Project](#). We have worked with Portland International Airport on coyote issues associated with coyotes on airfields for more than 20-years.

We strongly support passage of HB 4075. Coyote derbies are inhumane and ineffective for managing coyote populations and they are the antithesis of legitimate hunting. They represent cruel and wanton waste of Oregon's wildlife. This legislation is not about the urban-rural divide, limiting hunting opportunities, or about limiting property owners' ability to address depredation issues. It is entirely about eliminating a practice that promotes indiscriminate killing and wasting of a native wildlife species in exchange for prizes.

A recent poll by the Remington Research Group found that a strong majority of Oregonians, across all five congressional districts, support legislation to ban coyote killing contests.

Moreover, coyote killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles. Numerous studies, including those cited in [Oregon Small Farm News](#), an extension of the Oregon State University, underscore that science does not support indiscriminate, large-scale, mass killing of coyotes as an effective means of reducing conflicts with pets or livestock, or even increasing numbers of game species. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs and increasing their rate of reproduction.

It is time to end these inhumane and ineffective coyote derbies. Please pass HB 4075.

Respectfully,

Bob Sallinger  
Conservation Director  
Audubon Society of Portland