

Dear Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

I'm a rural Benton County resident and a co-founder and advisor to the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program ([AWPP](#)). The Program awards grants to farmers for the purchase of non-lethal wildlife deterrents to protect livestock and crops. I'm asking you to support HB 4075A, a bill to ban coyote killing contests in Oregon.

During the development of the Benton County Program, I consulted with predation management scientists and carnivore ecologists from around the United States. I also interviewed many local farmers and have spoken with dozens more from all over Oregon at the annual OSU Small Farms Conference.

One thing that both scientists and farmers have made clear to me is that randomly killing coyotes and other wild carnivores does little or nothing to reduce livestock depredations. In fact, they say that killing predators can have just the opposite effect.

There is a reason that coyote trappers have an old saying: "If you kill one coyote, two will come to its funeral."

I fear that allowing coyote killing contests will only create more problems for Oregon farmers who already spend a lot of time and energy trying to protect their livestock.

This bill will not prevent misguided lethal coyote control efforts which scientists and farmers say only increase conflicts with livestock. It will not prevent coyotes from being hunted, trapped for fur, or simply shot on sight because they are considered vermin.

To be honest, this bill will do little to protect most coyotes, but it is a test of our character, honorable conduct, and faithful stewardship of wildlife where Oregonians say, "We value and respect all wildlife in our state".

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Randy Comeleo  
Corvallis, OR