

TO: Senate Rules Committee

FROM: Dan and Janet W. Blair
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RE: Hearing on Monday, March 2nd on HB 4075A

DATE: February 29, 2020

We write urging you to support HB 4075A - legislation that would at last ban the "sport" of coyote-killing contests in Oregon.

A Remington Research Group poll recently found that a strong majority of us, across all five congressional districts, support legislation to ban coyote-killing contests. Here are our reasons for that support:

- Coyote-killing contests don't serve any significant wildlife management function. Organizers of such events claim that the killing targets "pests," but they don't target specific coyotes involved in conflicts with livestock, and fail to recognize the many important ecological roles that coyotes play. Coyotes control rodents that may damage crops or spread disease.
- Furthermore, there is scientific evidence that indiscriminate killing of coyotes can disrupt pack structure and lead to exactly an opposite result from that claimed by the contest organizers: it can lead to increased coyote populations and livestock losses.
- These contests are nothing but a blood sport, with prizes such as cash or weapons offered for the most animals or the largest animal taken. Oregon's wildlife is managed under the public trust doctrine, which holds that our state's wildlife is managed for the benefit of all

Oregonians, and it is unethical & cruel to wantonly kill wildlife as part of such a contest.

HB 4075A is good for farmers, good for hunters, and good for wildlife. HB 4075A is legislation that is perfectly aligned with Oregon's values, the best available science, and broad public support. These gruesome killing contests should have no place in our - or any other - state. They give ethical hunters a bad reputation, and make our beloved Oregon appear backward. We urge your support for HB 4075A.

Thanks for giving our concerns and recommendation your most serious and thoughtful consideration.

/s/ **Dan Blair** /s/ **Jan Blair**