

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

The majority of Oregonians and more than 70 conservation scientists denounce wildlife killing contests on ethical and ecological grounds. Coyote killing contests are cruel, unethical bloodsports — like cockfighting and dogfighting — but they go one heinous step further and cause the intense suffering of injured or orphaned animals who are left behind. Besides the inherent cruelty, indiscriminate slaughter of these intelligent animals upsets their pack structure — as well as ecosystem balance and biodiversity — and causes their populations to actually *increase* following such killings, not the reverse, as some erroneously claim. Conflicts with livestock then may then increase; ironically it is animal agriculture that has degraded native landscapes by grazing feed production, and logging, not the coyote.

Wildlife killing contests have no place in civilized society. Please follow in the footsteps of Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Vermont and move HB 4075A forward so that Oregon can finally put an end to these deplorable slaughter contests.

Thank you.

Eileen Stark
Portland