

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to please vote YES tomorrow, Monday 3/3, on HB4075A to end unnecessary and abusively cruel coyote killing contests in Oregon.

Wildlife is a resource belonging to all Oregonians, and as such should be managed in consideration of the public majority's interest which overwhelmingly supports protection and does not support uncontrolled killing that benefits a small minority interest group, such as those participating in coyote killing contests. The goal of these contests is to kill the most coyotes as possible for prizes which is considered unethical by most hunters, as well as by most citizens. The number of coyotes in Oregon is not even known. Biologists' field studies have shown that random indiscriminate killing of coyotes, such as these contests, results in more larger litters, higher survival rates and actually an increase in the overall population. While this sounds contradictory, this kind of killing destroys the pack social system and results in many members breeding and raising litters as opposed to only the dominant pair. The end result is more pups to provide for which causes more predation and conflict with livestock as an alternate food source.

I have heard that certain lawmakers are claiming this bill is an affront to rural cultural values. I am a rural property owner having lived here for 27 years and I do not support these contests, nor do any of my neighbors. We know the best way to protect domestic animals when you live in the country is to use good animal husbandry. Anyone claiming that killing contests are part of rural culture is uninformed and is advocating support of animal abuse. Please don't buy into this fallacious argument.

Your Yes Vote on HB4075A supports wildlife management based on science, reduces conflicts with livestock and represents the public's support for protecting wildlife.

Thank you for your attention,

S. Mackler
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