

Testimony in support of the ban on coyote killing contests in Oregon.

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Since statehood, Oregon has followed what is now known as the "Public Trust Doctrine." This doctrine charges the State with the duty to protect Oregon's wildlife for the future use of all citizens of Oregon. This doctrine is one of the oldest forms of the common law. Roman law recognized the concept, followed by English common law, and it has been part of Oregon common law since statehood.

A coyote killing contest is not the recreational hunting of a coyote. It is a group of individuals who set out to kill all the coyotes they can find. The mass killing of a wildlife species is the very opposite of wildlife preservation. Under the public trust doctrine, the State of Oregon must preserve these coyotes. These coyotes are for the use of all Oregon citizens, not as targets for a few who want to kill all they can find.

Enjoying Oregon coyotes is a right held by all future generations of Oregonians. Allowing a few people to hold massive killing contests denies those who come after us of this right. The Oregon Public Trust Doctrine demands the passage of this bill.

Coyote killing contests are wrong.

Banning coyote killing contests is not only right, it is Oregon's common law.