

I urge that you vote for HB 2728 that prohibits the cruel and gruesome practice coyote killing contests. Please join seven others states (Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, California, and Vermont) that have banned such horrible events. Killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles (Oregon Small Farm News). According to the Yale Environment newsletter: "The sponsors of killing contests wrongly argue that these events help prevent coyotes from taking livestock and deer."

Even hunting organizations throughout the country are denouncing the practice. The Yale report continues: "Awarding prizes for wildlife killing contests is both unethical and inconsistent with our current understanding of natural systems," declares Michael Sutton, former president of California Fish and Game commission. "...Such contests are an anachronism and have no place in modern wildlife management." Wildlife is managed for the benefit of ALL Oregonians, present and future. There are solutions. Assistance could be given to landowners who claim to have a coyote problem that would employ humane and sustainable practices. Surely there are many other options for sporting contests that do not involve the brutal killing of coyotes and other wildlife "pests". Land stewardship includes responsible, humane, and reasonable maintenance of the balance of the ecosystem that respects and honors wildlife, regardless of their "varmit" label. This is not an essential practice. There are alternatives. No one will be deprived of killing coyotes on their land. This barbaric and cruel practice of coyote killing contests is not worthy of the dignity of the great people of Oregon. Please vote for HB 2728, thank you!! I am a retired teacher and grandmother who is appalled at what such contests teaches our children. We need to model compassion and reason. Please do the right thing, do the brave thing. Thank you!