

Dear Committee members,

I live in rural Jackson county and have never lost animals to coyote predation. My home is surrounded by woods and my closest neighbors are half a mile away. Good fencing and inexpensive hot wire have protected chickens, goats and other animals. It is incumbent upon the livestock owner to protect their animals. Wildlife belongs to the land and has a right to live and thrive and evolve as nature intends.

Killing contests violate every tenent of ethical hunting and should not be allowed. In fact, science and history show that the indiscriminate killing of coyotes does not reduce their populations, and in fact actually tends to increase them. Killing disrupts their stable social system and actually results in increased breeding, litter size and survival rates. Gambling and killing for fun are a bad combination and serve no good purpose. Organized killing contests cannot be ethically or biologically endorsed or justified by an enlightened body of decision makers.

Banning coyote killing contests is long over due. Please vote Yes on HB2728