

I write on behalf of myself and my family of four voters. We oppose the persecution and wanton slaughter of native wildlife. Coyotes are native to this our American homeland. Our family runs a small livestock farm in rural Oregon. We more than appreciate how coyotes keep down the ground squirrel population; we depend on it. Also, we have friends who run much larger operations. They agree that Coyotes are part of this marvelous creation. As such they provide a population check on ground squirrels and mice; providing balance to our ecosystems. To protect their livestock, they have successfully employing guard dogs.

People I have met who participate in these killing coyotes claim they are provided a service. This is not supported by science. Science has proven that coyote regulated their own litter size based on prey populations. When Coyotes are killed, the next spring litter sizes are larger. When people indiscriminately slaughter a large number of coyotes, as occurred in the Harney Co. coyote contest in January, the pack hunting structures of coyotes will become disorganized and this leads to an exacerbation of predation-livestock issues. So, No, Indiscriminate hunting of coyotes does not provide a service.

My husband and daughter are both hunters. From all that I have observed in our hunting and farming community, coyote killing contests just provide a blood lust fantasy for certain people — people who grew up with the idea that certain animals' lives were not worthy of respect. This is not what hunting should be for and our family is disgusted to be associated with it. It is grossly disrespectful of the creation. The contest folk laugh about killing and seem to take delight in shooting full of holes a gorgeous creature. Hunting should be a reverent activity for food or survival, not for power entertainment.

My family delights in watching coyotes hunt mice and ground squirrels. They are beauty and intelligence. We delight to see them share affection for with each other and communicate through body language. We open our windows at night to enjoy their songs. To us, they are a joyous part of our Western American heritage. We support balanced Oregon ecosystems, science-based management practices and especially, humane treatment of our wildlife.

As such, we ask that you support this complete ban on coyote killing contests in the new legislative session. Thank you for considering our view.