

I believe that House Bill 2728 is necessary and important for several reasons. We are part of a natural environment and nature, not above it, but our relationship with all that is around us is out whack; We need ecological and environmental balance. We also have the responsibility of being stewards of the earth, for ourselves and other human beings and other creatures as well, but cruelty and wanton killing are very much the opposite of stewardship. And the cruelty that we build industries from, like the fur industry, does not stop with animals, but extends to human beings as well. I am a former fur worker and worked with dangerous chemicals and processes that created cancers in men after years of working in the industry. We do not receive compensation or help for those industrial cancers, although the coats that I helped make sold for more than \$100,000 each. Once unleashed, cruelty is difficult to contain. These animals are not being killed for meat or in order to feed hungry people; they are being killed for sport and for fur. It is a cruel sport and industry indeed, and one can purchase fake fur that is warm and stylish easily enough. The fur industry also uses large amounts of water and chemicals and dyes, polluting the environment, and engages in deceptive advertising. The industry does not invest in modern equipment or technology because it has an insatiable desire for profit, regardless of what it costs animals, workers, or the environment. We once used cat and dog skins to make coats---this was in my lifetime---and that was regarded as cruel. The same should be said of coyotes. Please support HB 2728.