

I am an avid sportsman and have and have hunted my whole life. I am a coyote hunter and carry a valid fur bearers license. Coyote management is essential to a healthy ecosystem. In areas where these predators are not well managed we see wildlife and bird populations become endangered. It is a scientific fact that these animals need to have good management in order for their population to remain healthy, but also for the balance and health of wildlife and livestock success. Overrun populations of coyotes become diseased and predation of things like sage grouse, antelope, deer, pheasant, and many other essential populations suffer and can all but disappear from their natural habitats. Most wildlife management professionals agree that overrun coyote populations dramatically harm the ecosystems of many species. If proper management of coyotes is necessary, the way in which that is accomplished, as long as it remains effective and humane, should not be micromanaged by the government. If sportsman are allowed to accomplish this essential task without having to hire and pay government hunters to do the very same job, it would be foolish to prevent that. Hunters are the very best managers of wildlife as they love and care for the environment in which they live and work. They cherish the flourishing of animal populations and take care and spend enormous amounts of money to be able to continue these activities. Allowing the sale of fur harvested will ensure that furbearers take care to closely manage the populations so as not to deplete them but to support them in healthy ways. Taking that away would cause harvested animals to lay in waste instead of being useful. Management would still be necessary and would take place whether or not contests and sport takes place. Derbys and sport hunting of coyotes has gone on for decades, if not longer, and coyote populations remain as strong as ever and are in constant need of continued management to save vulnerable species. Passing this bill would cost the State money and would inevitably prevent good management practices by men and women who love and care for the land and wildlife in this State. I urge you to stand against this legislation. Thank you.