

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

I strongly urge you all to support HB 2728, the bill to prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon.

Some opponents of HB 2728 portray it as an attempt by non-hunters to infringe upon the rights of hunters. I firmly believe that no ethical, responsible, hunter would ever use the term “hunting” to describe these barbaric contests that turn hunting into a game.

Others say that HB 2728 epitomizes the cultural divide between urban and rural Oregonians. This implies that rural Oregonians are unaware of the science showing that coyote killing contests do little or nothing to protect livestock or increase ungulate numbers and paints them as people who support unethical “hunting” and animal cruelty. Ignorant, unethical, and cruel does not describe any rural Oregonians that I know. The majority of Oregonians, both urban and rural, share a long cultural tradition of valuing and respecting the state’s wildlife.

The Boone and Crockett Club’s [Fair Chase Position Statement](#) says: “The Club also believes that hunting is a privilege that must be earned repeatedly.” In an undercover video of the [December 2018 coyote killing contest in Burns](#) grinning “hunters” drag dead coyotes around as toys for their dogs to play with and toss coyote bodies into pickup trucks like bags of trash while young children watch and learn by example that this is how “hunters” behave. Images like these give the non-hunting public an extremely negative view of the sport and undermine public support for hunting. In a changing society, where fewer and fewer people are hunters, banning coyote killing contests will improve the non-hunting public’s perception of hunting and make it easier to “earn the privilege” in the future.

Passing HB 2728 will not allow the coyote population to grow unchecked in Oregon. Significant numbers of coyotes will still die after these contests are banned. Coyotes will not be a protected or regulated species in Oregon. They will still be trapped in leg-hold traps and shot from helicopters by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, they will still be shot on sight by anyone at any time as vermin, and they will still be trapped for their fur. The only thing HB 2728 will stop is the blood sport of killing coyotes as part of organized contests to win cash or prizes.

Please end coyote killing contests in Oregon by supporting HB 2728.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Pamela Brunet Comeleo  
Corvallis, OR