

I strongly urge this committee to oppose HB 2728. The hunting of coyotes and other varmints in the state of Oregon is already regulated by ODFW and existing statutes. Although proponents of this bill attempt to sell it as ending the "gruesome" and "barbaric" (their words) practice of coyote hunting, it does nothing of the sort. There exists no science supporting the impact that passage of such a bill would have on this species, nor the manner in which they're hunted. This is because this bill does not address a natural resource issue, it pushes the proponents social values to recreational hunters within our state.

Similar to events such as the Portland Marathon, these derby's provide an organized event for hunting enthusiasts to participate in. In an era where generations are becoming less and less involved in natural resources, such events provide a platform and opportunity for hunters to stay connected to their heritage. These events further support the struggling rural economies in the communities which host them by promoting recreational hunting opportunities, and the dollars that are brought in associated with them.

Our state has a litany of real natural resource issues to be addressed by this committee. Pushing unneeded new laws which don't address a natural resource issue, is yet another example of lawmaking based on emotion rather than science.