

Allowing a small group of individuals to engage in wanton waste of a wildlife species as part of a contest is a grave violation of the state's solemn duty to protect this public interest by managing wildlife in trust for all Oregonians.

Motivated by financial rewards, these contests are grossly out of step with the ethics of fair chase, modern, science-based wildlife management, and Oregon's conservation centered values. Cruel and callous coyote killing contests send a message of disregard for wildlife rather than of sportsmanship, good stewardship, and respect for the public's wildlife.

HB 2728 is a matter of ethics and ethical hunting of Oregon's wildlife.

In fact, a recent poll by the Remington Research Group found that a strong majority of Oregonians, in all five congressional districts, support legislation to ban coyote killing contests. The Statesman-Journal also supports a ban, editorializing that "Oregon doesn't need coyote-killing contests."

Moreover, coyote killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles. Numerous studies, including those cited in Oregon Small Farm News, an extension of the Oregon State University, underscore that science does not support indiscriminate, large-scale, mass killing of coyotes as an effective means of reducing coyote populations, minimizing conflicts with pets or livestock, or increasing numbers of game species. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs and increasing their rate of reproduction.