

Coyote Killing Contests

Testimony to: The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Kathy Hessler, Clinical Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School (Title offered for affiliation purposes only, I am offering this testimony in my personal capacity)

Dear Committee Members,

I write to ask you move forward with legislation that would prohibit anyone from conducting or participating in a contest, competition, tournament or derby, the goal of which, is to take and kill coyotes for cash or prizes.

It is problematic that we commercialize and privatize wild animals for the benefit and profit of some citizens and organizations, without heeding the calls for their protection from others. It is disturbing that we still don't take seriously the lives of animals in general, or recognize their importance to healthy ecosystems, and their benefit to the community at large while alive.

It is far more disturbing to allow killing contests for any beings. Respect for animal lives and the environment should not allow such activities.

You have evidence before your committee of the harm done to animals and the environment and so I won't repeat that evidence here. I will simply ask that you take it seriously and act to ban coyote killing contests, for their sake, and for ours.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hessler

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