

I am writing to voice my strong support for House Bill 2728 in opposition of coyote-killing contests statewide. As a resident of Klamath Falls, I acknowledge the legacy of coyote kills in my own county's history of white settlement, ranching, and animal agriculture. I am ashamed of this history; for the lack of respect to the animal, our vital biodiversity, and the humane ethical principles held by hunters and other animal appreciators. Mass killing of animals is not only cruel but short-sighted in its impact. Research suggests that indiscriminate killing of coyotes disrupts pack stability, causing an increase in coyote reproduction and predation that runs contrary to the aims of farmers. There is simply no viable argument for the continuation of mass killing of animals for entertainment.

In this era we face unprecedented biodiversity loss and the mass extinction of many animals species we hold dear. Wildlife has never been more precious or made more vulnerable than it is today. A 2018 study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences revealed that humans and domesticated livestock now make up 96 percent of all mammalian biomass on earth, leaving a reduced population of 4 percent of wild mammals. It goes without saying that human activity continues to shrink our remaining wildlife - wildlife that has shared our planet for millennia and that, once gone, is gone forever. We cannot in all good consciousness abide indiscriminate killing of our most precious resources, including top predators. I ask that you please vote in support of House Bill 2728 and join other states - Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington - in their joint recognition of such contests as cruel and unethical.