



House Bill 2728

February 9, 2021

Bill Harvey

Commission Chair

bharvey@bakercounty.org

Dear Committee:

Baker County strongly opposes the passage of HB 2728.

Coyotes harass, kill and eat our livestock, sage grouse, small mammals, birds, and pets. Coyotes are not being killed 'just because', but primarily to protect our agricultural businesses from loss. However, any time wildlife numbers, especially predator populations, grow out of control it affects all of our interests; agriculture through direct livestock loss, other wildlife such as fawns, elk calves, and the protected sage grouse through predation, pets through the transmission of disease and outright killing, and people through disease transmission, such as rabies, and negative interaction.

Every year agricultural producers and counties spend thousands of dollars reducing coyote numbers through aerial and on-the-ground actions. Without the additional reduction provided through local contests, the amount of funding needed to control coyote populations is going to increase. A cost that the local economy can ill afford.

In controlled numbers, coyotes help our environment. This is why we need to the ability to keep this balance of no over-abundance of a very damaging predator. We are asking that this House Bill 2728 be opposed.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Harvey".

Bill Harvey, Chair

Baker County Commission