



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313

oha@ccountry.net • oregonhunters.org

February 9, 2021

Chair Witt and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, for the record I am Al Elkins representing the Oregon Hunters Association and I am here today to speak to HB 2728, the bill that bans coyote contests in Oregon.

For the record OHA is not here today to defend large commercial coyote contests, which is what prompted this bill. OHA does not conduct, promote or participate in such contests. However, OHA was the victim of collateral damage when the bill was first introduced.

In fact, OHA has historically held very low key "coyote raffle contests" at the chapter level in places like Lakeview, Klamath Falls, etc. These are Members Only contests. The contests run all year long. There is no "MASS KILLING", no weigh in or piling of dead coyotes. Members hunt whenever they want and can bring a coyote pelt to a monthly chapter meeting and get a raffle ticket. At the end of the year, during a chapter holiday party, one raffle ticket is picked as a winner.

While attempting to ban large commercial contests, the first bill inadvertently banned our low-key association sponsored raffle contests involving legally taken coyotes. At that time, we felt that we were victims of unintended consequences caused by the broad nature of this prohibition.

Fortunately, in 2020, after discussions with Chair Witt to explain our concerns about the 2020 bill, he graciously agreed to have an amendment drafted to address our concerns. The amendment created a very narrow exemption for the kind of raffles we hold as a non-profit association built on hunting, where it is for members only and there are no cash prizes. Ours is a simple raffle rather than some big commercial contest open to the public, which is what prompted the original bill.

Our 2020 amendment has been included in HB 2728 the bill before the Committee today. Section 5 of the bill reads:

(5) This section does not apply to a raffle conducted by a nonprofit organization if the nonprofit organization does not award the raffle prizes based on the number, weight or size of coyotes taken.

Again, we would like to thank Rep. Witt for his work in getting both sides of this issue to the table to work out an amendment that is agreeable to both interest groups.

That concludes my testimony I would be glad to answer any questions.