

HB2728: Coyote Contest Testimony

With this letter, I am testifying against the passage of HB2728. As a sportsman in the great state of Oregon, I declined to become involved in previous attempts to bring regulation of our state's wildlife management through legislation. I regret that. Much emotion and passion can become involved when addressing issues affecting our wildlife. Much of the emotion and passion overwhelms science. I believe this is the case with HB2728.

Oregon sportsmen and women have long held the well-being of our wildlife foremost. We appreciate the wildlife in our state in all forms whether it be "game", "non-game", or "predators". Wildlife, whether protected or unprotected, should be enjoyed by anyone and everyone within our state. I know of no Sportsman who desires to see any species of wildlife removed from our ecosystem including predatory animals including coyotes.

Our state wildlife managers have not chosen to protect coyotes as a "game animal". Not because they are not worthy but because it is unnecessary. Someone said that the coyote may be the last animal on earth. They are extremely adaptable. They are smart, wary, and versatile animals. Even the extreme control measures in generations past could not eliminate the coyote. Organized coyote hunts or derby's will not change that.

On the other hand, unchecked coyote populations can have very detrimental affects on many other species of wildlife which so many go into the outdoors to watch and enjoy. Everyone loses with reduced predator control, especially the wildlife who are preyed upon by those uncontrolled predators. People who truly love and enjoy wildlife should support predator management in it's various forms including coyote contests.

Coyotes are not in danger of being removed from our ecosystems. If they were our state wildlife managers would regulate hunting them. Coyotes are an integral part of our outdoors but unchecked populations rob us all of our full outdoor experience. I encourage our state lawmakers to reject the emotional arguments to eliminate predator hunting contests, fur sales and any other measures aimed at reducing or removing predator control in our great state. Everyone loses.

Thank you.

Tim Titus, Harney County, Oregon