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Date: February 8, 2021  
To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Representative Brad Witt, Chair  
From: Sharon Harmon, President and CEO, Oregon Humane Society  
Re: HB 2728

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organizations. **We are here today to ask you to support HB 2728.**

Wildlife killing contests offer cash prizes and/or guns for the winner who kills the most, the largest, or the smallest coyotes within a certain time-period. Participants often justify their events with misleading claims that they will reduce conflicts with coyotes—the species most often targeted in these contests. However, there is no science-based evidence that coyote killing contests permanently reduce coyote abundance, increase populations of deer or other game species, or prevent conflicts between predators, humans and livestock.

In fact, killing contests are counterproductive to sound wildlife management. They can create instability and social chaos in the family structures of the animals who are killed, often leaving orphaned young to die and killing the experienced individuals who would pass down appropriate hunting behavior and knowledge to younger animals. Left on their own, adolescent animals are more likely to prey on livestock to survive.

There is no justification for extinguishing the life of an animal for fun, and we urge this committee to effectively ban the competitive hunting of coyotes by **voting "yes"** on HB 2728 going forward.

For the animals,



Sharon Harmon  
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