

I'm writing in opposition to HB 2728. I raise cattle in southern Oregon. Until recently I also raised sheep. Sheep losses due to coyotes was the main reason for getting out of the sheep business. Coyotes love to kill new lambs in the spring. I lost 50 lambs in a 2 month period to coyotes one spring. Coyote attacks on calves in the spring is becoming more of a issue every year. Deer population numbers are down which I believe are at lease due in part to ever increasing coyote numbers. Other than man, coyotes don't have any real predators in this area. Coyote derbys help to control the coyote population which helps our deer herds and our livestock producers. I have participated in derbys with my son and it is always an enjoyable weekend with lots of good memories made. There is no logical reason for passing this bill and further burdening our livestock producers who provide food for the world and are struggling to stay afloat. Livestock losses are random and significant. Most people (including legislators) would not be happy if the government randomly took random and significant amounts of money from their paycheck. That's what this bill does to producers. Thanks for your time. Oppose this bill!