

It is obvious this bill has generated a lot of fear and misinformation.

First of all, to be clear, HB 2728 will NOT deprive anyone from shooting coyotes on their land. It is very evident that coyotes have been demonized and such cruel and horrific killing contests are erroneously justified as wildlife management.

Secondly, this bill will not prevent people from holding shooting contests. Those wishing to champion their hunting skills have many options to compete for prizes that do NOT involve the brutal slaughter of wildlife. It would be very tragic indeed if a community's economic health was based solely on this one inhumane event. Perhaps it is time to create new traditions. I wonder, sadly, what killing contests teaches our children.

Thirdly, Humans have created the imbalance that has caused coyotes to become problematic. We have heard science backed proof that mass killings only further promote this imbalance by encouraging coyotes to produce more offspring. The problem is exacerbated by year after year of mass killings, that creates the very problem that people are complaining about.

There are resources available through various agencies. For example, Defenders of Wildlife in Montana have successfully worked with cattle ranchers in preventing wolf depredations. It can be done. There are options.

There is wildlife management and there are contests. They need to be treated as separate entities.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." And "Unlike the animal, God has given man the faculty of reason."

I ask you to please use sound reason in supporting this bill.

Thank you so much for your time.