

My name is Debbie Raney. I'm a rancher in Riley, Oregon. I'd like to say that I am opposed to this measure. I have been ranching in Harney County for the past 58 years. I've listened to other testimony and watched the live feed of other testimony for and against the house bill. The things that have really struck me, that I have listened to and watched, are the proponents who have said they want to protect wildlife. In my years as a rancher I have watched coyotes kill young deer fawns, antelope fawns, nearly every type of waterfowl that we have here in Harney County, in addition to our source of income, our calves. In one instance I watched 7 coyotes circle a baby antelope, and they would have killed it had we have been maybe a minute later. I also listened to a woman incorrectly state that the hunters in these contests try to shoot the pregnant females. Since the coyote derby is held in January, that's an impossibility; there are no pregnant coyotes at that time. Another testimony stated that hunters were using the mothering instinct to draw in coyotes. I guess the mothering instincts of the birthing cow, who is laid out trying to calve, and has her calf and her back end literally eaten as she is trying to give birth doesn't count. This happens. And unfortunately, all too often. The coyote population on our property never diminishes, and we hunt and call coyotes a lot. The coyote contests are another tool that helps us control the predators. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion, and I appreciate your time. Thank you very much, Debbie Raney.