

Hello Chairman Witt and Committee,

As the person that has been a head volunteer of the coyote derby here in Harney county for the past few years the language of this bill speaks at me directly. First of and foremost I would like to say that I feel very disrespected and am very disappointed with the language used at volunteers and the contestants of the contests, with the words savages, slaughter, and unethical. Absolutely zero people who are in support of this bill have participated in our event. They have the slightest of bit of clue on how we hunt and harvest the coyotes during the classic. And with most of the subjects on the opposition spending zero to little time in south east Oregon they have zero clue to which we operate and go about our daily life. This is simply an attack on a culture that they do not understand but want to control living over hundreds of miles away.

Coyotes are one of the most elusive and adaptable creatures in our ecosystems today, with coyotes being mostly nocturnal they are very tough to hunt. During, my elk hunting adventure this season I walked 72 in 6 days and only recall seeing 1 coyote but yet, I was able to find three fawn kills, an overabundance of sign, and hear thousands of calls. So, to say coyote hunting is a challenge is a huge understatement. Having been involved in the contest it is interesting to that about 72% percent of the hunters entered lack to bring back a single coyote.

With that being said I would like to share some of the rules of the contest.

- You must follow all of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife rules and regulations. If a contestant receives a citation for a wildlife violation or unethical hunting, the entire team will be disqualified.
- There are to be absolutely no aerial(helicopter) or snowmobile hunting or running down of animals with any vehicle permitted.
- Each team has a maximum of ten coyotes to be turned in. – This leaves teams taking older mature coyotes. Not smaller coyotes or pups.

The timing of this event is so crucial to our community. With just about every farmer calving in the months of February, March, and Early April this gives the farmers and ranchers a little bit of breathing room for their calves to grow big and strong while the coyote population reboots. Like said in early arguments if coyotes can repopulate so fast and at higher rates what is the problem with this event.

Nothing from this bill is concerned about the coyote population yet that is one of the main arguments against it, you would think that we would leave the regulation of the coyote population Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who has never contacted us about negative effects in the history of our event.

I have lived in Harney County my whole entire life and it is interesting to turn on the Portland and metro area news to find that a pesky coyote has wondered into a city neighborhood and eaten a few house cats and how every individual in that neighborhood wants it removed. Well the same thing happens over hear and I find it very hypocritical that one of our biggest contributors to regulating coyotes could be stripped from us. Growing up here in Harney County none of these people realize what it's like telling your 9 year old daughter you found the carcass of her cat half eaten by coyotes that dug into the yard last night or that they have to be home before a certain time at before the coyotes become active.

Lastly, Ill end with this. There are 300,000 estimated coyotes in the state of Oregon. There were 272 harvested at the event this year. Before your vote or express your opinion about this bill please think about all of the lives, businesses, cattle, and ranches that it will heavily effect for .0009% of the already abundant population.