



Date: February 28, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

From: Sharon Harmon
President and CEO, Oregon Humane Society

Re: Senate Bill 723

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 organization. **We are here today to ask you to support SB 723 and the -2 amendments.**

For many years now, the Oregon Legislature has maintained its findings that animals are “capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear” and “should be cared for in ways that minimize pain, stress, fear and suffering.” This bold proclamation is not followed by a qualification that certain species are exempt or that wildlife is not included; it stands alone in ORS 167.305 embodying the reverence Oregonians have for animals. Tournament hunting of any wild animal goes against this in the most extreme form.

Sport hunting instills stress, fear, and ultimately death into the animals whose lives are claimed in the name of entertainment. Permitting the unfettered taking of these animals solely for sport and not for any other purpose—such as, for food or in defense of livestock—cannot be justified. The fleeting sense of satisfaction or pleasure an individual may experience when recreationally hunting coyotes, pales in comparison to the terror and subsequent suffering those wild animals will endure.

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 adopting the -2 amendments to this bill and **voting ‘yes’ on SB 723** going forward.

Sincerely,

Sharon Harmon
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