

Date

Your Name

your Address

Representative AB Smith

Home address

Dear Representative Smith,

In wildlife killing contests, participants compete to kill the most or the heaviest animals within a certain time period. I ask that you end them in our state because:

- They have nothing to do with modern, sciencebased wildlife management.
- Participants tarnish the image of our state’s sportsmen and sportswomen by using calling devices and spotlights to lure curious animals into the open so they can shoot them—just to win some cash and bragging rights.
- The mass killing of essential native carnivores in these contests will not increase game species numbers, nor will it protect livestock.

House Bill 589 will end these wildlife killing contests in New Hampshire and also end the practice of wantonly disposing of carcasses killed in these events.

Please help put an end to cruel, gruesome, and unsporting wildlife killing contests in our state. Vote House Bill 589 - Ought to Pass.

Your constituent,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Other Talking Points**

Wildlife Killing Contests are like dog-fighting which has been outlawed nationwide.

Participants in these “contests” which may include young children, kill as many foxes, coyotes and other animals as they can. Prizes are awarded to those who kill the largest or smallest of these species. Prizes may include high powered rifles and ammunition.

Countless animals may be injured or orphaned during a contest.

Participants can use electronic calling devices to lure in coyotes or foxes for an easy kill,

Contests claim their contests will reduce conflicts with wildlife. Scientific studies refute these claims nor will a contest help protect deer by coyote killing. In fact, NH's deer herd is more abundant today even while coyotes are present in every county.

Random killing of coyotes may increase coyote numbers and can lead to more conflicts with humans. Coyotes self-regulate their population when left alone.

These contests are a symptom of misguided wildlife governance.

Myths, perpetuated by special interest groups, demonize coyotes and call them "vermin" to justify their killing. Coyotes are killed year around and at night during mating season.

A violation of the public trust doctrine - a foundational principle mandating that governments hold wildlife in trust for the general public and future generations.

Killing predators in these contests destroys healthy ecosystems. Coyotes and foxes help to control rodents thereby restricting disease transmission; they scavenge dead animal carcasses and limit other carnivores like skunks and raccoons that prey on birds and their eggs.

Most ethical hunters deplore these killing contests. Responsible hunting involves eating or using what you kill and only kill what you need.