

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 7th, 2021

WHEREAS, ethical hunting and fishing are valued practices of acquiring food and managing wildlife by the County of Washtenaw and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, all wildlife species, and especially top carnivores and mesocarnivores like coyotes, foxes, and bobcats, are an integral part of Michigan's ecosystem and play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity, including controlling the population of rodents and rabbits often responsible for indirectly transmitting a variety of diseases including West Nile virus and Lyme disease; and,

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County residents use Michigan's vast public lands for hiking, dog walking, wildlife watching, seasonal game hunting, horseback riding, and other outdoor activities that are made possible by the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan wildlife killing contests, including many in the Lower Peninsula offer cash and prizes for the killing of the biggest, the smallest and the most foxes, bobcats, and coyotes within a specified time period; and

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate killing promoted by these contests are not an effective wildlife management tool and are often counterproductive to responsible wildlife management and can upset the health and integrity of local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, wildlife killing contests violate the traditional tenets of responsible hunting practice by wildlife management professionals and many Michigan Hunters, and are contrary to the time-honored ethics of fair chase and respect for life, and do not reflect Michigan's humane values; and

WHEREAS, hunters and wildlife management professionals across the country have recognized that wildlife killing contests damage the reputation of the hunting community and jeopardize the future of hunting in America; and

WHEREAS, Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington have prohibited wildlife killing contests in recent years, citing ethics, science, and the need to protect their states' hunting traditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes wildlife killing contests that are held across Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Resolution be forwarded to the elected officials in the Michigan Legislature who represent Washtenaw County with the request that they advocate for legislative action to ban these contests at the state level.

