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Senate Republican Leader Statement on Senate President Limiting Senate Republicans' Free Speech

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Senate President limited Senate Republican's free speech on the Senate Floor during debate on <u>Senate Bill 723</u> or the coyote hunting ban that passed. Senate Republican Leader, Herman Baertschiger, Jr. (R-Grants Pass) released the following statement regarding the impedement of free speech:

"Today, the Senate President limited the free speech of two Senate Republicans on the floor who were in the middle of passionate speeches against the coyote hunting ban because he didn't like what they were saying. My caucus members spoke about the very real cultural divide between urban and rural Oregonians, made even more obvious with this legislation. The fact that the majority party, primarily from urban areas, cares so deeply about controlling coyotes, a predator that is destructive to the livelihood of rural Oregonians is unbelievable."