

March 27, 2023

**This is my testimony in support of LD 814 An Act to Restrict the Daytime and the Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.**

I am writing in fervent support for LD 814 introduced by Rep. Lynne Williams of Bar Harbor.

Coyotes are an ancient apex predator in our region and across the continent. They provide an essential link in the chain of life, death and the public health by keeping the population of deer in check, thereby reducing the number of accidents on our roads and cases of Lyme disease caused by deer ticks.

Coyotes are rearing pups in the spring and they are being taught to hunt in those next few essential months, learning their role in our ecosystem. Restricting the hunting of coyotes during the time suggested in LD 814 will help the young survive, learn to hunt, and keep the population strong for their role as our sentient, family oriented, top predator in Maine.

Other animals have short hunting seasons in our culture. I believe the coyote deserve the same protection and thoughtful management.

Sincerely,

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