

Kimberly Smith  
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LD 814

Dear Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to you as a lifelong Maine. This year I will turn 50 years old. I was raised in a family of non-hunters and non-land-owners so my experience with wildlife is limited. I acknowledge I'm probably not the typical person testifying on behalf of our coyote population.

I write today as a person concerned that disruption of natural patterns is dangerous and should be done with careful intention. There is divine intelligence of natural ecosystems so in all cases, wild animals should be disrupted as little as possible, especially mothers and their young. We honestly cannot calculate the ripples and repercussions when entire litters of pups die of starvation alone in dens. It affects systems and rhythms that transcend our understanding.

We live in a world of wildly escalating violence in general. Opinions abound about whether and how much humans should encroach on, control, and possess parts of the natural world. This issue is new to me and the members of this committee are better read and researched than I am. I was invited to add my voice to the conversation so I humbly request that you consider restricting daytime and nighttime killing of coyotes.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Kim Smith  
Skowhegan ME