

Pamela Vose
UNION
LD 814

April 3, 2023

TO: Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

My name is Pamela Vose and I am a lifelong Mainer. landowner and resident of Union since 1984.

I am testifying in favor of LD-814 An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

I would like to start out by saying that I am not anti-hunting and appreciate the strong hunting traditions enjoyed by generations of my family. I also appreciate and enjoy all of our wildlife and the balance that occurs when nature is allowed to function as intended. Each individual species must be evaluated and managed by scientific methods that actually have a chance to accomplish the desired outcome. It is also good to remember that although they often accomplish a lot of good in other areas, well financed special interest groups may, at times, have agendas that are at odds with the goal of producing a stable and controlled coyote population.

During the early years on our farm when my husband and I began raising registered Morgan horses, our animals coexisted with a stable coyote population. We never had any issues with them and came to understand that they had learned to keep a distance from our animals large and small. At that time the rodent population was under control in our barn which we learned later was largely due to our coyote population. Over time, the evening voices of the coyote pack turned into gunshots in the night and the occasional glimpse of a coyote going about their daily business was replaced by a large pack of dogs let loose on our property against our wishes by their smirking owner. The dogs were only called back to him when my husband advised that any dog menacing or frightening our horses would be shot as a nuisance. During this time the small rodent population increased to the point that even with the increase in hawks and eagles, human intervention was required to keep them under control in our barn. I know now that these changes were not a coincidence, but the result of human intervention in a misguided attempt to “control” one species to the detriment of another.

I feel strongly that those who take the responsibility for determining the best practices in managing our natural resources must do so with a strong emphasis on using the most current science available to achieve the desired outcome. Providing a closed season for coyote will enable the population to stabilize and stop over populating as a result of nonstop killing. This will benefit the deer herd overall and also allow the young members of the pack to learn the proper “rules” of existing in an ever more populated habitat. This has the benefit of decreasing their interaction with humans and helping to eliminate the “nuisance coyote” factor which is largely man made.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue. I strongly encourage you to vote “Ought to Pass” on this bill.