

LD 814 An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

To: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

From: Jude Dickerson

My name is Jude Dickerson, I am a Registered Maine Guide and have worked a number of wildlife biology jobs across the country, including for the Maine 30-year bird study, which looked at the diversity and abundance of songbirds in Maine's Northwoods and the area around Greenville, Maine.

It's hard to see a global treasure when it's in your backyard. You get used to the diversity of birds and amphibians and plants. But Maine is home to one of the last largest remaining stands of temperate and mixed-boreal forests left in the world and is home to the United States' largest Globally Important Bird Area.

The protection of biodiversity in the face of a rapidly changing climate would be helpful to future generations of humans. High levels of biodiversity and intact ecosystems contribute to clean water and fertile land. LD 814 or the Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes to a range outside of their breeding and pup-rearing season, would help coyotes in Maine play their role as a keystone predator in the globally significant temperate and mixed-boreal forests of Maine. Pups raised during the spring and summer are taught how to hunt wild game, rather than needing to attempt to hunt domestic animals. Coyotes eat rodents and keep deer from over-browsing forests and farmlands, because their presence on a landscape keeps deer on-the-move. This act is a great step to pass on a better cared for ecosystem for our grandchildren and their grandchildren after them by beginning to heal our culture's relationship to wild creatures and places.

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