

Kymerly Dakin
Yarmouth
LD 814

As I am a citizen of Maine, and a person deeply concerned about our natural environment, I wish to relay my concern regarding the harmful exploitation of coyotes in our state, and encourage you to support Bill LD 814: An Act the restricts the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes. This act will make it illegal to kill coyotes during their most vulnerable life cycle: April to September 30th, when they are raising their pups.

When the parents of young coyotes are killed, desperation takes hold of the survivors. Without the guidance of their absent parents the pups are not able to be taught to hunt for rodents and other small mammals. They will instead go after easier, slower livestock, thus fueling a vicious cycle.

We know now that coyotes are a “keystone” species, with significant positive impact on surrounding ecosystems. Coyotes keep deer on the move preventing them from consuming much or all of their food source resulting in starvation and the destruction of Maine’s natural environment.

Our skyrocketing rates of Lyme disease, and the devastating impact on our economy, is correlated directly with Keystone species loss. In addition, the over grazing by deer can also lead to the significant loss of native plants, critical to bees, birds and butterflies. This has impact on agriculture and allows for invasive plants to gain ground.

Please vote to give coyotes and their families a fighting chance to help heal our ecosystem. I strongly urge you to support: LD 814: An Act the restricts the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

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Yarmouth, ME