

Claire Perry  
Owls Head  
LD 814

CLAIRE PERRY - TESTIFYING IN SUPPORT of LD 814

Senator Landry-Senator LaFountain and Honorable Members of the IF&W Joint Standing Committee:

I was a participant on the IF&W Department's ten-year Coyote Management Plan at the sub-committee level 2020-2030.

I expected three things from these meetings:

- Willingness of all members to fully participate
- Civility of discussions and expression of opinions
- Current science being the foundation of management policy; not emotions or special interests

For the most part, members were respectful and worked well together. Best of all, we had five wildlife biologists on this committee of varying experience and credentials. Two of the five specialize in canids: Dave Persons and Geri Vistein.

Here is what I want you, the committee members, to know: Four out of five of our committee's wildlife biologists, strongly supported the proposal: A Closed Season for Coyotes.

The reasons, and length of this season were brought up, and discussed. LD 814 is an exact reflection of that discussion and vote.

Lastly, let me assure you; I am not anti-hunting. And I can also assure you what I am for: Science-based Wildlife Management Policies.

This, along with my own personal experience of farming with a stable coyote family, is why I am here today in strong support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you.

Claire Perry