

Jane Schiff-Verre
So Portland
LD 814

Senators and Representatives of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

My name is Jane Schiff-Verre. I am a Maine resident and grateful for the opportunity to speak my strong support for LD 814,
An Act that restricts the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

The passage of LD814 will make it illegal to kill Coyotes from April to September 30th, a time when Coyote parents are teaching their pups vital survival skills just as we teach our offspring how to one day care for themselves. This is important time for the Coyote family.

What is essential to understand is when one or both Coyote parents are killed their family structure becomes torn apart creating extensive chaos and even death of the helpless pups. As a coyote family's social structure deteriorates this leads devastating repercussions on our Maine farmers whose livestock become unfortunate prey. Starvation leads to desperate measures.

The passage of this historic bill also has a personal meaning for me. It relates to the rapidly increasing epidemic of Lyme disease and the positive role our Maine Coyote plays in the intricate balance of our miraculous ecosystem.

I write to you today as a twenty-five year survivor of Lyme disease. By the time the infection was a confirmed positive, the bacteria had become deeply embedded in my joints, organs and brain affecting my ability to carry on full time work due to residual physical and cerebral impairment. Activities that once brought vibrancy, stability and joy into my life were replaced by chronic fatigue and depression. For those of you who know someone who has experienced late stages of Lyme disease, you understand how this disease can cause physical and mental distress due in part to extreme isolation.

It is a known fact that Lyme disease, as well as other tick born diseases, is on the rise in Maine. Where once our woodlands, backyards and parks were safe places to visit they have now become breeding grounds for many kinds of ticks causing serious illnesses and even death.

The very animal that can help to reverse the Lyme epidemic is the one that is being systematically exploited. There is hope for reducing the spread of tick born diseases and for the balance of our beautiful Maine landscape. It lies with you today with the passage of this bill.

They need our protection. Please vote in support of LD 814.

Respectfully yours,
Jane Schiff-Verre
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