

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Please forgive me for not being able to attend in person today.

My name is Don Kleiner and I live in Union. I'm a working Guide and Maine Outdoors (my company) has been in existence for 37 years offering Outdoor experiences in the mid coast specializing in families and beginners I offer fishing on fresh and saltwater; recently retired from offering short canoe trips and upland bird hunting over trained dogs (for the last 20 years at Libby camps in T8R9).

I am currently on the steering committee for the furbearer planning effort. I expect that you have not had time to read the results of that work but I encourage you to. I think it is the best example to date of a publicly driven effort. I have been involved in many over the years on waterfowl, turkey, big game and fisheries are the ones that I remember. The latest version of the furbearer plan is currently available online for comment at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/21-MDIFW-7-Furbearer-Plan.pdf> I encourage you to take a look.

As I am sure you might expect the issue before you in LD 814 came up in both the species subcommittee and at the steering committee. I cannot describe the subcommittee discussions as I was not in that group but at the steering committee it was discussed and during that discussion I asked the question: Is the current season structure or methods negatively impacting the coyote population in our state. The answer was no.

A different consideration in this issue is what impact current coyote population levels are having on other species. I am very sure that red fox populations are negatively impacted by coyote density. In some areas the deer population is negatively impacted by coyote numbers as well. Deer are certainly numerous in much of the state and this impact is insignificant there. In the more remote areas with lower populations of deer the impact is noticeable. I might remind the committee that over the course of my career we lost the segment of guiding that focused on deer as a result of declining populations. Certainly not due entirely to coyotes but at least in part.

I am also sure that you would be hard pressed to find a livestock producer in our state who thinks that coyote populations are not high enough. As I mentioned when we talked at the beginning of the session our wildlife lives on someone else's land and we should be mindful of their needs as well as our own.

In conclusion I encourage you to vote ought not to pass on LD 814, given that the idea has already had a thorough discussion, and it may have negative impacts in other areas your support is simply not justified.

Thank you for your consideration.