

Susan McHugh
Auburn
LD 716

Please support LD 716 AN ACT TO RESTRICT THE HUNTING OF COYOTES

I am a researcher of human-animal studies, and therefore can confirm that there is abundant scientific proof that the current policy is dangerous. Wanton killing of wildlife is not only wasteful, but, in the case of coyotes and other canids, such practices destabilize networks of these highly social creatures.

For over a hundred years, coyotes have filled the niche created by the ill-advised wolf eradication programs of our ancestors. Adapted to prioritize eating rodents like mice, red squirrels, and rats, coyotes play a vital role in balancing ecosystems, and as a bonus for us minimizing property nuisance.

Moreover, leaving coyotes undisturbed in their natural family groups works to minimize the spread of diseases like rabies, and the incidences of rare, abnormal behaviors like eating pets.

This piece of legislation is a long-overdue move toward supporting common-sense practices that have proven to work well in other states and countries. Please support it.