Mike Vollmer Mount Desert LD 716

Putting a restriction on coyote hunting could be one of the worst mistakes in Maine history. Predator control is a very important role in protecting Maines wildlife and farming communities. On top of that I live in a very, very high deer populated area and with so many deer in my area comes a very high count of predators, much of which include coyotes. I have had coyotes kill many of my farm birds, much more than I can count. Many house cats and even small dogs have been killed in my area from coyotes. Despite the efforts made to try and control the population around my house and neighborhood, it is still a daily battle. One of the most concerning moments I have had in the past year was when my children, all under the age of 7 were playing in my backyard when a coyote ran through only 30-40 yards away. The coyote population is at a very strong high point and only getting worse. They are getting less and less timid and pushing their limits further than in the past. Putting a restriction on hunting them will only make it worse and if you allow the predator population to get out of control then in a matter of time, along with our pets, soon they will be attacking our children.