

Brian Donaghy
Palermo
LD 716

I'd like to submit this testimony in opposition of LD 716 an act to restrict the hunting of coyotes.

I feel this bill is submitted on emotional grounds, but not scientific grounds, and therefore I can not support the bill. Where is the data showing that the coyote population numbers are declining enough to warrant decreasing long standing seasons that have successfully allowed the coyote population to thrive across Maine?

Anybody that spends any amount of time in the woods of Maine, will soon learn that there is no shortage of coyotes on Maine's rural and urban landscapes. One could probably make a good argument that there is an overpopulation of coyotes leading to disease such as distemper, rabies, mange, and others. An in depth study would most likely show that we are under-harvesting coyotes, not over-harvesting them.

Anecdotal evidence would show that there is an abundant population of coyotes across Maine, but no evidence whether anecdotal or scientific would show a shortage of coyotes...

Without sound science, I would ask that the committee supports the science and vote LD 716 "ought not to pass."

Respectfully,
Brian Donaghy
Palermo, ME