

Brandon Townsend
Glenburn
LD 716

Dear Members of the Maine Legislature's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,
I am writing to strongly oppose LD 716, "An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes," which seeks to limit coyote hunting to a six-month season from October 1 to March 31 and impose harsh penalties for violations.

As many know but some of you may not, coyotes are an invasive species here in the state. They have proven to be detrimental to our deer herd as well as several of our non predatory animals. But they don't stop there as they have caused many farmers across the state to lose valuable income preying on calves, sheep, chickens etc.

The very small group of people behind & supporting this change does not represent the majority of the state and is solely based on emotion and subjective beliefs not fact. While the proposed bill would drastically impact the rest of us by allowing coyote numbers to skyrocket in this state.

I recently asked several avid "coyote hunters" what their best guess was on the number of coyotes taken by all legal methods/seasons, all had the same answer between 1-2k with best guess at around 15 hundred. Most effective method being hounds and a close second "night hunting". The elimination of this valuable tactic would be catastrophic for game, farm animals & pets alike.

I urge you to reject LD 716 and preserve Maine's ability to manage coyote populations effectively. An overpopulation of coyotes endangers our wildlife, pets, and agricultural interests, while night hunting remains a vital method to keep their numbers in check. Let's trust the professionals at DIF&W and the hunters who contribute to conservation, not tie their hands with restrictive laws that ignore reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Brandon Townsend
Glenburn, Maine