

Martha Macdonald  
Waterford  
LD 1293

TESTIMONY OF MARTHA MACDONALD

In SUPPORT of LD 1293 "An Act to prohibit coyote killing contests in Maine"

The committee on Inland fisheries and Wildlife

April 2, 2025

Good afternoon, Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Roberts and members of the committee.

My name is Martha Macdonald and I am a long time resident of Waterford.

As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I was horrified to learn that Coyote Killing Contests are legal here in Maine. It's shocking to me that someone could actually find entertainment in such a barbaric practice. Given that it has been proven time and time again that there is no scientific evidence that the indiscriminate killing of coyotes meaningfully decreases their populations, there is no viable excuse to utilize these events as a supposed conservation mechanism. Additionally, national polls show that the majority of US citizens adamantly oppose these contests and there is already national legislation under consideration banning such tournaments on US owned lands.

Maine has a time honored hunting tradition but these killing contests paint a dark picture of our hunting communities. Although these events are perpetrated by small outlier groups, they drag our hunters' down with this malicious killing that doesn't align itself with Maine's hunting tradition and sportsmanship ethics. Our hunters are better than that yet, unfortunately, they are guilty by association of the same atrocities as the contest participants.

Our natural beauty and resources are of great value to all of us here. Every species in nature has an important role to play in a healthy ecosystem. Coyotes are a fundamental part of this equation. It is not our place to interfere with mother nature in such a reckless, ruthless manner. Moreover, it is shameful to partake in brutality as a form of entertainment. Considering that these derbies have absolutely no practical results and have no lasting impact on coyote control, there is no good reason to continue this egregious practice. It's time to step into the 21st century and join the national movement banning these outdated competitions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1293.

Many thanks,

Martha Macdonald