

Claire Perry
Owls Head
LD 1293

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Landowner/ Lifetime Resident Liberty/Owls Head Maine

Testimony in Support of LD 1293

April 2, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and Honorable Committee: Members:

How can anybody from the IFWD look me in the eyes and tell me our coyotes play a valuable role in Maine's ecosystems, that they are sadly misunderstood, and that the education of the public regarding their importance (and co-existence methods) needs to be a top priority, and not be absolutely supportive of this bill? I ask, because I do not know their position. Yet.

I wonder, because you can't have it both ways.

And what do we want to set as examples for our new youth hunters? That killing Maine's top predator for fun and prizes is acceptable because.....?

Is that how we treat a species that is valuable and needs better understanding from the public? You kill as many as you can, wherever you can. Kill the most, Kill the largest female; Kill the largest male, Kill the smallest female, Kill the smallest male... and win an AR-15 or an Old Town Canoe, or a Week-End Stay at a Cabin by a Lake....so much winning.

Coyote killing contests aren't a wildlife management tool. Don't kid yourself. They make a mockery of killing an animal that doesn't deserve the status of "vermin." These contests degrade not only the image of ethical hunting, they make a carnival atmosphere of wildlife management rules and regulations in general. It makes my stomach hurt. And I have hunted most of my life.

Coyotes will still have to endure a no-closed season policy...in spite of those 4 out of 5 biologists strongly recommending one. Those biologists were invited by our own IF&W Department to write up recommendations for a 10 year span. They worked hard on Maine's Coyote Management Plan Sub-committee. You might want to look into why their voices were ignored. Are you not curious...? I also worked on that committee. I know why.

If coyote killing contests are a good coyote management tool...if they are good for our children to witness and in which to participate as future hunters and coyote killers...well then...we'd best get on with it and start promoting these contests instead of assuming they are as barbaric and misguided as they look.

After all...who doesn't want a free AR-15 or a Super-Duper Acme BBQ grill ?

Thank you,
Claire Perry