

Dear Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

April 1, 2025

I am writing in support of LD 1293 to prohibit coyote killing contests.

**This is about science. Coyotes are keystone species.** Coyotes play a critical role in the health of ecosystems all over Maine. Coyotes help keep the rodent population down, thus helping to decrease the number of ticks. Coyotes help to move deer along which gives saplings a better chance of growing. Deer can wipe out plant life if they don't need to keep moving. This is all part of the balance of an ecosystem. Many farmers count on having coyotes near their farm because deer can decimate crops quickly. But with coyotes nearby, deer can't stay too long in one area. And if crops fail, humans suffer. We all need one another to play our roles and have healthy relationships.

In written history, in the U.S., there have only been two deaths by coyotes and only 20-30 attacks on humans by coyotes. But the number of injuries each year from domesticated dogs is 4.5 million people. And 30-50 people are killed by dogs each year.

This is not about what some hunters want, this is about what humans and other animals need to have healthy lives. And this is about respect for our fellow earth dwelling beings. Please, please consider this.

Coyotes are majestic, smart, family-oriented animals. They deserve the right to be protected.

Thank you,

Bonnie (Heather) Hardy

Bristol, ME

Bonnie (Heather) Hardy  
Round Pond  
LD 1293

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