

Elizabeth Hill
Brooksville
LD 1293

TESTIMONY OF In SUPPORT of LD 1293 “An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine” to the Committee of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife April 2, 2025
Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Committee. My name is Elizabeth Hill and I am from Brooksville, Maine, a coastal community. I ask you to vote for LD 1293 “An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine”.

Coyote killing contests contribute to an overpopulation of deer and rodents in our area, which are naturally controlled by coyotes. Coyotes prefer mice, rats, gophers, beavers, rabbits, squirrels, snakes, lizards, frogs, fish, pet food, garbage, crops, poultry, house cats, and insects like ticks. As you probably know, the incidence of tick-borne disease in humans is growing rapidly.

Coyotes run off predators of major game-bird such as raccoons, foxes, opossums, minks, and weasels.” The title of an article from Pheasants Forever magazine proclaims “Like pheasant hunting? Thank a coyote!

Killing contests do not help prevent coyotes from taking livestock and deer. The only deer control around here seems to be by automobile collisions which, judging from the local paper’s police reports, are becoming ever more frequent.

Coyote killing contests only destabilize coyote packs’ social structure and have been a waste of taxpayer money. Much research done by wildlife biologists have shown that a stable coyote population is critical to a healthy ecosystem. Coyotes whose pack has been destroyed, whether by human hunting or loss of habitat, have lost the social structure that keeps coyote birth rates down. When the pack is intact and territory and food are limited, only the alpha female has a litter. Females in a stable pack won’t give birth until four years old, after she has learned to hunt well enough so she can stay away from humans. But when the pack has been destroyed, females as young as one year will give birth. Young coyotes whose pack has been killed off will sometimes become so starved that they will approach farms and houses..

Killing contests offend our community sense of fairness and decency and send a dangerous message to our children that senseless indiscriminate killing is a cause of celebration. What happened to the sense that you should eat what you kill?

Please vote to support LD 1293 “An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine”. Elizabeth Hill, Brooksville.