

Senator LaFountain  
Representative Landry  
Members of the IF&W committee

My name is Bob Parker, owner and operator of Stony Brook Outfitters, full time guide and outfitter. Speaking on behalf of myself.

I am opposed to LD 814.

I am a 3 generation hound hunter and have been guiding hunters full time for over 35 years. Even though I do not run coyotes with my dogs, I look at this bill as an anti- hunting bill because, if passed, this bill would take six months away from the dog hunters.

The running of dogs on coyotes year round has been proven to be an very productive tool as a means of helping to control the coyote population. Our goal is not to eradicate them but to continue to be an effective tool in controlling the population. This means that we must continue to harvest this predator year round. Any decrease in the season would be devastating to our already struggling deer herd.

I also feel that reducing the season in which coyotes can be hunted at night, will contribute to this decline.

I deer hunt myself and also guide deer hunters and this bill, if passed, will have a huge impact on our struggling deer population, especially in Northern, Western and Eastern Maine .

I attend numerous out of state shows promoting Maine hunting and getting deer hunters to come to Maine is my biggest challenge due to Maine's deer hunting success rate and the struggling population. The passing of this bill will be yet another barrier as our deer herds start to decline again due to the increase in numbers of this predator.

I would also like to remind everyone that the coyote is a predator that has no natural predator in Maine. The coyote population is not at risk, and continues to thrive, even with the current controls and seasons in place and therefore this proposed legislation, again, appears to be a back door attempt to chip away at our hunting heritage.

In closing, I feel that this bill will allow the coyote population to explode and eliminate the progress we have made in helping keep its population in check. I would ask that you kill this bill and keep the current seasons intact.