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Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator LaFountain,
Representative Landry,
Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is J.R. Mabee, I am a resident of Bangor and the President of the Grand Lake Stream Guides Association. The members of the guides association and myself are opposed to LD 814, An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

The Coyote population in Maine is not threatened or endangered! Coyotes are known carriers of mites and ticks spreading diseases such as Lyme, Mange, Distemper, and Rabies to name a few. Coyotes also add considerable strain to populations of game that are historic and economically important to our state.

Coyotes are one of the most adaptable and weary wildlife species, thriving unnoticed not just in the woods but urban and suburban parts of our state. They don't just prey on wild animals they come into populated towns and cities eating trash and looking for peoples cats and dogs, besides farmers livestock. I have heard multiple first hand accounts of hare and bird dogs being chased, attacked, and killed by coyotes. The neighborhood deer at my house in Bangor have not been around for two winters but we still see coyotes sneaking through our yard on occasion. Downtown Bangor!

Maine is still known as a Whitetail Deer hunting destination but it is hard to compete with other States that produce more trophy deer. Maine is on the northern edge of the natural range of Whitetail Deer, one bad snow year can wreak havoc on their population. Add coyotes and it takes years for the population to recover. The deer population in far northern and downeast Maine has historically been low and is challenged by a lack of predator control such as the loss of the former coyote snaring program. This bill if enacted will lead to more coyotes, fewer deer, and less revenue to the State of Maine from non resident hunters that start spending money as soon as they cross the state line and stop at the Kittery Trading Post, Cabelas, and LL Bean. That's less revenue for everyone from the New Hampshire border all the way to Big Twenty Township!

Let the biologists from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife do their jobs! They are the educated professionals! There is a process in place for changing fish and game laws and rules through the advisory council, I should not have to lose a day of work to come to Augusta and testify against something that will affect my livelihood as a guide. If there is a problem with an over population of deer I would recommend a controlled hunt like done on Marsh Island in Old Town and Orono or the expanded archery seasons and zones.

The Grand Lake Stream Guides Association and myself urge you, please vote "Ought Not To Pass" on LD 814!

Thank you for your time and consideration.