

LD-814, "An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes" (April 3, 2023)

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. My name is Andi Vigue, I am a resident of Pittsfield Maine, and I am supplying testimony today in opposition to LD-814.

I am a lifelong resident of Maine and have come to cherish the existence we all have come to know as "Maine the way life should be". As a hunter and trapper for the past 50 years, I have spent my time enjoying, sharing, and learning in the outdoors. It is clear to me that LD-814 is a solution to a problem that does not exist or that can not be managed with the laws currently on the books.

Our state works diligently to balance the existence of nature and mankind. In fact, the state works diligently to ensure the survival of all native species within the state. Coyotes are not native, nor is their existence at risk. I have not heard or read of any studies done that show the coyotes in Maine have shrinking number or are struggling under the current legislation.

This bill would deter outdoorsman from hunting coyotes, in turn increasing the number of coyotes, which will cause other issues for the citizens of Maine. The coyote is a very adaptive animal and has shown no signs of concern.

Some feel that hunting coyotes can cause damage to agricultural crops. Assuming this is the case, it is easily managed by posting land per the existing laws. In fact, the state has programs to help landowners with posting their land and how to allow and or prevent issues. This program exists to ensure there is harmony between all.

So, in closing, please consider the detrimental impact this bill would have on those who enjoy hunting and have for generations. Do not allow solutions to be enacted into law that are not solving any existing problems.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my position on this matter.