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****Testimony in Support of LD-716: An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes****

Presented to the Honorable Chairperson and Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee

March 3rd, 2025

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Honorable Chairperson and distinguished members, Thank you for hearing me.

My name is Deanna Arute. I live in Rockwood, Maine. I am a mother, a wife, am pro 2A, a hunting family, and a proud Mainer.

To begin with:

April to September is Coyote pup season. If not protected during this time, one or both parents can be killed...creating immense chaos or the pups will die in their den of starvation. That's cruel, wrong and unethical.

Maine has 12,000 coyotes, according to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. That number DOES NOT explode WITHOUT year-round hunting.

Why? In coyote's territory ~ Only ONE family lives there.

Coyotes fiercely defend their territory and do not let other coyotes in, because there is only enough food for that one family.

Only the alpha male & the alpha female are allowed to breed and can only become pregnant ONCE per year, unlike our pet dogs.

Massachusetts has paused coyote hunting for seven months ~ from March to October, per MassWildlife. It's controlled, with success!

Maine's Deer herds aren't dying off either—our herd's are 250,000 THOUSAND strong! IFW has tracked deer populations for decades. Deer Hunting in Maine is safe!

Noted studies report that 8% of winter deer deaths are coyote kills, mostly old & sick ones...which keeps the herds healthy.

Let's talk about farms:

Stable coyote families block other coyotes in their territory on farms and build trust with farmers. Mousing is a great delicacy for carnivores on farms and is a great help to our farmers! Our Maine farmers hope for the presence of carnivores to control the rodent population causing damage to their crops. We want our farmers to succeed!

Also, DEER wandering through farms carry nasty parasites called brain worms. These brain worms hit the farm's hoofed livestock hard. Coyote presence scare off the DEER and keep them on the move, cutting that risk. DEER staying in one place too long also overgraze on vegetation & wipe out wildflowers, which in turn affects the bees, butterfly's, birds, etc., and spreads disease, some of which is spread to humans (like Lyme Disease) carried by the white footed mouse (coyotes favorite food)!

To end:

~Starving pups is brutal!

~Coyote presence keeps Brain Worms down and keeps deer on the move! This way they can't overgraze!

~Farmers need coyotes to reduce rodent populations!

~Deer hunting is safe!

~Facts back this—
12,000 coyotes steady

~Maine deer population is strong!

Pass LD-716!

Thank you.