

**Bob Weingarten Testimony in Support of LD 716
“An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes”**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the IF&W Committee:

My name is Bob Weingarten and I hail from the Town of Vienna. I have lived on my land in Vienna for 46 years, have observed, and welcomed coyotes and their pups during these many years.

I think it is criminal to allow indiscriminate killing of these animals throughout the year, even during times when they are trying to raise their young. There are no laws to protect coyotes here in Maine. They can be killed year round day and night, chased by hunting dogs to their death, baited and then shot. How unethical can you get?!

The killing of coyotes in late Spring and Summer when they are rearing their young causes chaos in their otherwise very ordered world of family structure. It is exceedingly inhumane and is archaic. We need to recognize the coyote as a vital apex predator and part of the biodiversity we seek to maintain. Indeed, I welcome the presence of coyotes to discourage the ravishing of the crops in my garden that I live on.

LD 716 will make it illegal to kill coyotes by any means from April 1 to September 30 every year. It will increase the penalties for those who violate the prescribed season.

LD 716 is a vital ethical update to Maine’s wildlife laws and I sincerely hope the majority of this Committee will vote “Ought To Pass” and finally bring a little enlightenment to our treatment of coyotes.

Thank you.