

TESTIMONY OF BOB WEINGARTEN IN SUPPORT of LD 1293
“An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine”
Committee of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
April 2, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Committee. My name is Bob Weingarten and I am from Vienna, Maine.

LD 1293 is a piece of legislation that this Committee should want to vote Ought To Pass.

Why? Because while the public recognizes hunting as a sport in Maine, the wanton mass slaughter of the coyote species in contests to see who can kill the most, or the largest, for a prize, is inhumane and vicious murder. Not only is it cruel and unethical by any standard, but also it is completely ineffective and wasteful if the goal is to reduce the coyote population. This has been shown over and over again in the past 30 years or so.

Calling killing contests “wildlife management,” as some defenders of killing contest do, is an incredible misnomer. They are conducted for profit, entertainment, the “fun” of killing, and the very false belief that they are reducing the coyote population..

There has been no scientific evidence that has shown any meaningful long-term effect on deer populations or coyote numbers as a result of all the killing practices thrown at the coyote.

The wary nature of coyotes and their remarkable adaptability and reproductive success have allowed them to quadruple their range throughout North America.

Coyotes are here to stay—it's up to us to find ways of coexisting with them. A statewide program of education in techniques to prevent or resolve human-coyote conflicts offers the best method for living with coyotes in our shared spaces. We need to recognize the coyote as a valuable part of Maine’s ecosystem.

In the northern Rockies coexistence is being practiced with wolves, grizzlies and mountain lions, and new techniques of coexistence are continuously being developed. Coexistence needs to happen here in Maine with our apex carnivore, the coyote. Let’s get rid of the stain of killing contests and move forward into reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.