

Testimony in Support of L.D. 1293-An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine
John M. Glowa, Sr., President
The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc.
South China, ME 04358
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Good afternoon. My name is John Glowa, Sr. and I am here representing The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc., an organization whose mission is wolf recovery in Maine through research, education and protection.

As I have stated to this committee during this session and in a previous session, there are no coyotes in Maine. Maine does have coyote/wolf hybrids and wolves. It is not legal to kill coyote/wolf hybrids and wolves are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. Sooner or later the legislature will have to stop ignoring these scientific and legal facts.

It is the statutory responsibility of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to "...preserve, protect and enhance the...wildlife resources of the state...to encourage the wise use of these resources...and to provide for effective management of these resources...." So-called "coyote killing contests" all violate IFW's statutory mission and must be stopped. They do not preserve, protect or enhance wildlife resources. They are certainly not wise use. They are not effective management. They are ethically and legally wrong and have no scientific justification.

The words ethics and science are excluded from IFW's statutory mission, so the department has no legal authority to challenge this practice on ethical or scientific grounds. This exclusion is just one more example of a system that is rigged to benefit the special interests at the expense of the resource.

So-called "coyote" killing contests do not have an ethical or scientific leg to stand on. They are simply killing for fun and bragging rights. They do harm to ethical hunting and are widely opposed by the public. In addition, Maine's government does nothing to protect the federally endangered wolves that are in Maine and that may also be killed during these contests. This alone is reason enough to ban them. Thank you.