

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



May 3, 2021

Senate Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Marine Resources Committee  
Cross Building, Room 206  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

*via email to Linda Lacroix, Clerk, IFW@legislature.maine.gov*

## **Re: Support for LD 883- an Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters**

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Landry, Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Marine Resources Committees,

On behalf of Project Coyote's Maine members and supporters, I write in support of LD 883 An Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) was designed to protect and recover imperiled native species, and their ecosystems, BEFORE they go extinct. When a species is listed as endangered under the ESA, this means that it is in danger of becoming extinct throughout its population range, not just in specific areas.

Worldwide, species are going extinct at alarming rates from human activities such as population growth, development, pollution, toxins, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. Here in Maine, there is a loophole relating to the listing of species protected by the ESA that may further jeopardize species in need of greater protections. This loophole allows Maine to list species at the state level at its own discretion rather than affording threatened and endangered species the same level of protection offered at the federal level; leaving many species unprotected when they need it most.

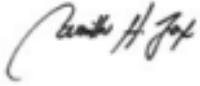
This proposed legislation will address this issue by requiring Maine's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Marine Resources to recommend that all species of fish and wildlife that inhabit Maine land or waters for any part of their life cycle, and that are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA, be listed at the state level. There is no biological reason for Maine not to list a species that the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have listed as endangered or threatened. Listing these species at the state level means better management and enhanced cooperation among all relevant state agencies.

There are currently 16 federally-listed threatened and endangered birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish found in Maine. Of those, six are not listed as such at the state level: red knot, Canada lynx, blue whale, green turtle, Atlantic salmon (Maine's state fish), and Atlantic sturgeon. Aside from protecting these and other species, this

bill proposes to depoliticize, and thus streamline, the listing and recovery processes so that it is informed by the best available science.

For these reasons, we urge you to support LD 883.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Camilla H. Fox".

Camilla H. Fox  
Founder & Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle L. Lute".

Michelle L. Lute, PhD  
National Carnivore Conservation Manager