

Aurora Cobb
Bowdoinham
LD 814

With all due respect, I urge you to pass LD 814, An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes. Current rules permitting year-round hunting place coyote families at risk during the spring and summer pup-raising season. This is a critical period in the lives of coyotes, the time when young coyotes learn how to survive, interact with other creatures, and become effective hunters. Because orphaned pups are deprived of these lessons, they are more likely to turn to domestic livestock as easy prey and come into conflict with farmers. It is therefore in everyone's best interest to protect coyote parents and families, so that young coyotes can grow into successful predators. Furthermore, a healthy coyote population is vital to the Maine ecosystem as well as to human health, since coyotes keep rodent numbers in check and thus help to mitigate the rise of the tickborne infections now endemic in our state. And – finally and most importantly – coyotes are our fellow creatures, our kin: for this reason alone they deserve our respect, not endless year-round persecution at human hands.