

I am testifying in support of LD 814 - An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

Coyotes must receive at least the same protections as is provided to other animals in Maine, recognizing the critical role that they play in the ecosystem.

The period covered by this bill is when the coyote pups are ready to leave the protection of the den, and the parents teach them how to exist. A stable coyote population is essential in maintaining a healthy balance in nature - their main prey being rodents spread Lyme's disease.

To hunt for food with respect to the animal's life is one thing. Killing of coyotes out of an ingrained attitude that they are "varmints" and do not deserve to live is a very different thing.

I have heard that belief stated emphatically by people who have no idea of the importance of carnivores in our environment. Just "google" coyote hunting in Maine to see the unthinking cruelty that is presently permitted.

I am so proud to live in Maine, and I hope that this bill will be passed so that I can continue to have pride in our state.

Evelyn Dunphy
West Bath
LD 814

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