

12 April 2023

Dear Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

As a wildlife veterinarian, I am writing in support of Maine LD814: An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes.

In the coming decades, Maine faces a wide variety of challenges to the health of our wildlife, the environment, and our human population. With the absence of larger carnivores like cougar and wolves, coyotes play an important ecological role helping to maintain healthy ecosystems and species diversity. They help to limit rodents, and the populations of other mesocarnivores (like raccoons and foxes), maintaining biodiversity and reducing transmission of some infectious diseases.

I recommend that Maine joins other states like Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey in limiting the hunting season for coyotes.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pokras', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Pokras, DVM
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