

**Testimony in Support of LD 814, An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes;  
Submitted via E-filing, 4/6/23**

Submitted by: Sandra Scholar, Esq.  
Greenville Junction 04442

Dear Senator LaFountain, Rep. Landry, and Members of the IF&W Committee:

I write in support of LD 814. I am a full time Maine resident. I strongly believe that our laws affecting Maine's wildlife should be based on sound science, not on fear or hatred of, or prejudice against, certain species such as coyotes. When we know better, we should do better, even if that means challenging long held but scientifically unfounded predator control practices. LD 814, while not perfect, is a significant improvement over the current situation.

Coyotes are an important part of the ecosystem. They are one of the few large predators remaining in Maine, the others having been hunted to extirpation. Coyotes provide important ecological services, including rodent control, thus benefiting the agricultural sector of Maine's economy. Tourists love to hear and see them, and so they also benefit Maine's tourism industry. Coyotes generally don't hunt deer, but their presence alone may be enough to keep deer moving, thus preventing deer from over-browsing and degrading environments, which in turn leads to a healthier ecosystem. A healthier ecosystem can support numerous other wildlife species, also benefitting Maine's tourism industry. Yellowstone's experience with wolves showed that by keeping elk moving, the presence of predators allowed the ecosystem to recover from the elk over-browsing, benefitting numerous other species, including many birds, mammals, fish, and native plants. *"Close to 95% of the total biomass (living weight) of all the mammals on Earth's land surface now consists solely of humans and their livestock"* (Douglas Chadwick, 2021, *Four Fifths a Grizzly*, Patagonia: 47). This means that wildlife comprises only 5% of the biomass of mammals on earth. We should at least give these wild animals some breathing room.

I request that you Vote Ought to Pass on LD 814. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please submit my testimony for the administrative record. Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Scholar

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Greenville Junction, ME  
LD 814

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