

Jeremy Bellegarde
Dixfield
LD 716

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am a Registered Maine guide and long time outdoorsman, houndsman and coyote hunter from Western Maine. I am writing this in opposition to LD 716. I would be here (Monday March 3rd but I am unable to attend due to work) I have spent countless hours hunting and learning coyotes. I believe this bill will greatly impact the deer and moose population negatively statewide if passed. I am a year round hunter of coyotes and over the years have found the majority of coyotes harvested in the spring and summer months are males due to females staying close to dens while raising pups. I also believe hunting this time of year is important as it is when deer fawns, moose calves and turkey poults are most vulnerable. Coyotes main source of game during the months they want to close are these very species listed above. I believe the state is doing a great job in their current canid program and I strongly believe the year round hunting of coyotes is necessary to keep numbers in check. We as hunters carry a lot of knowledge and data from boots on the ground experience with coyotes and the roll they play on Maine's ecosystem. I want to thank you all for your time and I hope you all will take in consideration all the information hunters bring to IF&W. Once again I would like to express my opposition to LD716 as it is bad for Maine. Thank you