

Ela Bosco  
South Portland  
LD 716

Today, I write to you again to speak up for the voiceless coyote. I urge you to vote in support of LD 716 on March 3rd.

Coyotes are an Apex Predator keeping our ecosystem in balance by preying on mice, rats, rabbits, and sickly deer. By keeping carriers of the Deer Tick, such as mice, rats, and voles in check, coyotes greatly mitigate the spread of Lyme Disease. In my opinion, a far better alternative to pesticides and herbicides which kill birds, bees, monarch butterflies, and poison our food system.

The Keystone carnivore, coyote, like the beaver has influenced our landscapes, creating healthier and thriving habitats. They help to keep our treasured verdant wild places wild by providing balance to the food chain.

These close-knit intelligent animals use a strict birth-control method in order to keep their family healthy. Adult females are not permitted to mate until their fourth year.

"Stable coyotes on a farm become Guarding Coyotes. A stable family will not allow any other Coyotes in their territory. The Coyotes and the farmers establish a relationship of trust with each other.

- The presence of stable Coyotes on our Maine farms, protect the farm's hoofed livestock from the brain worm carried by deer. Deer do not just stand around in pastures all night when coyotes are present.
- When passed, this bill would not only give coyotes refuge from human behavior while they are bringing up their pups, but it will also help our farmers who rely on Coyotes to keep their farms' ecosystems healthy and balanced. And they do this by controlling the behaviors of herbivores, who can cause damage and spread disease. Our farmers feed us. We want them to be successful!"

-Geri Vistein

[coyotelivesinmaine.org](http://coyotelivesinmaine.org)

Warm Regards,

Ela Bosco  
South Portland

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