

Jesse Burke  
Fryeburg  
LD 716

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 716, which seeks to restrict the year-round hunting season for coyotes in Maine. The coyote population in our state is more than healthy and can endure the current year-round hunting season without any risk of depletion. In fact, restricting coyote hunting would have serious negative consequences for Maine's wildlife, livestock, and domestic pets.

Coyotes are highly adaptable predators with no natural enemies in Maine aside from humans. Their population continues to grow unchecked, leading to increased predation on our already vulnerable deer population. Maine's whitetail deer herd has struggled in recent years due to severe winters and habitat challenges, and unchecked coyote predation further threatens the stability of this important species. Reducing coyote hunting opportunities will only exacerbate this issue, making it even harder for deer populations to recover, particularly in northern and western Maine.

Beyond their impact on deer, coyotes pose a serious threat to small domestic animals and livestock. I have personally experienced the consequences of an unchecked coyote population. I once raised chickens and guinea fowl, only to have them slowly picked off—mostly by coyotes. I've also seen coyotes in my yard in the middle of the afternoon during the summertime, and they show little to no fear. Their lack of wariness around humans is concerning and highlights the need for effective population management.

A year-round hunting season is a necessary tool for keeping Maine's coyote population in check. It helps maintain balance in our ecosystems, protects our deer herd, and reduces conflicts with humans and livestock. I appreciate the committee's time in considering this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Burke  
Fryeburg