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LD 716

I am writing in support of the passage of LD 716, An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes. The legal hunting of coyotes at any time and by any means is not only cruel, but may actually be increasing the population, rather than diminishing it. Research has shown that when a coyote population is under stress from large predator control methods, such as indiscriminate hunting, the females give birth to much larger litters than under less stressful conditions. So allowing them to at least raise their young, without the added stress of being hunted, may allow the population to come back into balance with the ecosystem. The coyote's role as an apex predator means that they will keep the rodent population (and diseases) in check as well as keeping the deer population moving around rather than settling near farms and destroying hard-grown crops.