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LD 716

I'm writing you in support of LD 716, limiting the season in which coyotes may be killed in Maine. This bill is critically important for farmers and homesteaders like my family who depend on stable coyote packs to substantially reduce rodent populations in our pastures and around our properties (this is an increasing problem with climate change), and to keep the deer from destroying our fruit trees.

We know from our own experience and through the experience of our peers in New England and in Canada that a stable pack of coyotes on our farm knows to respect our fencing and livestock while supporting valuable biodiversity on and around our farms and homesteads. In more than a decade of raising sheep in Maine, we have come to count on our coyote neighbors to help keep our farm animals healthy through pressure on the rodent population and by keeping deer on the move and therefore out of our pastures, reducing the risk of sheep contracting meningeal worm.

We also know that the concept of coyotes decimating the deer population is a myth, and believe the importance of a science- and data-based policy on coyote hunting is critical to both the health of the deer herd and of Maine's farmers. My family and I are counting on you to support this bill moving into the full legislature.