Andrew Michaud Presque Isle LD 716

I am in opposition of this bill.

I am a born and raised Mainer now 29 years old. I have been hunting since I was 8 years old as it was a tradition passed down to me. This tradition allowed me to explore the great Maine outdoors and provide for myself and my family just like the generations of family before me did. I own 50 acres just outside of Presque Isle which creates an excellent habitat for all of Maine's wildlife. The deer and snowshoe hare feel safe here because it is close enough to town the coyotes keep their distance. Or so I thought. After building my house and spending much of my time on my land I have seen the yearly trend of deer returning in the spring with spotted fawns in tow. This returning group of deer make my 50 acres an apart of where they call home for most months. On any given day you can look out over the fields and see an occasional whitetail or snowshoe hare bounding through the fields. Until the coyotes make their appearance. One would think with housing nearby the coyote would keep their distance but this is no longer the case. They are immune to human activity and no longer afraid of us. This has resulted in many narrow encounters with coyotes while trying to enjoy time on my land with my family. I have seen a lone coyote chase an adult whitetail to exhaustion, and begin eating it alive as they are ment to do. As soon as the downed animal stops moving they covote stops attacking and moves on leaving a 150lb animal to waste and rot away. They are not doing it for the food they are doing it because they kill, it is what they do. When a hunter kills a coyote it is over within seconds and in my case the carcass gets used, the hide gets tanned and nothing goes to waste. Take that lone coyote and add 5 more making a pack and the results are absolutely detrimental to a deer and hare population. Not to mention pets and farm animals kept close to home but with no regard to human activity the coyotes will still make the kill. Daytime coyote hunting has little to no return as these animals are nocturnal unless they are hunting. The only time to keep these populations in check is at night on their time which is what this bill is looking to eliminate. This will cause an explosive growth in coyote population which many other states are in a mode of distress due to the overwhelming coyote population that was left unchecked especially in populated areas. Maine's wildlife and farm animals can't afford to have an unchecked coyote population which is what will happen if this bill passes since it will eliminated 95% of the time coyote hunters have the most success, at night. This bill is bad for Maine.