

**Dear Committee Members,**

I am a resident of Allagash and a lifelong outdoorsman, both recreating and working in the great North Woods of this beautiful state. I have witnessed firsthand how coyotes are vilified and have heard the rationale behind their killing from members of my community. Given my experience, I am submitting this testimony to advocate for restricting coyote hunting—at the very least, to assess the effectiveness of current wildlife management practices.

Coyotes play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, yet their indiscriminate hunting disrupts ecosystems, increases human-wildlife conflicts, and is often based on misconceptions rather than scientific evidence. I strongly urge policymakers to consider more humane and effective alternatives to managing their populations.

First and foremost, coyotes are natural regulators of the environment. As opportunistic predators, they help control populations of rodents, rabbits, and other small animals that, if left unchecked, can damage crops, spread disease, and outcompete native species. Studies have shown that removing coyotes from an ecosystem often leads to an explosion of prey species, creating unintended agricultural and environmental problems.

Additionally, hunting coyotes does not effectively reduce their numbers in the long term. Scientific research has demonstrated that when coyote populations are aggressively hunted or trapped, they respond by increasing their reproductive rates—producing larger litters, breeding at younger ages, and expanding into new territories. This phenomenon, known as compensatory reproduction, makes lethal control methods counterproductive and ultimately leads to an increase in their population rather than a decline.

The argument that coyote hunting protects livestock, deer herds, and moose populations is also flawed. While some coyotes may occasionally prey on larger animals, indiscriminate killing disrupts established packs, often leading to an increase in younger, inexperienced coyotes that are more likely to target domestic animals. Non-lethal deterrents—such as livestock guardian animals, strategic fencing, and improved forestry management—have been shown to be far more effective in reducing livestock and large game losses while maintaining ecological stability.

Furthermore, coyotes are an integral part of North America's biodiversity. They have adapted to a wide range of environments, from deep wilderness to rural and urban landscapes, and their presence contributes to the overall health of natural ecosystems. Hunting them for sport or as an attempt at population control is not only ineffective but also inhumane. Many are left wounded or orphaned, suffering unnecessarily. Given this, I urge consideration of including coyotes within wanton waste laws, ensuring they are not killed indiscriminately and left to rot.

Rather than continuing outdated, biased, and ineffective hunting policies, I urge decision-makers to prioritize science-based, non-lethal solutions that promote coexistence with wildlife. Coyotes are not vermin to be eradicated; they are intelligent, adaptable animals that deserve protection and respect.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the indiscriminate hunting of coyotes and advocate for policies that support non-lethal wildlife management strategies. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important issue.

**Sincerely,**



Adam Raven  
Allagash, ME