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My name is Jackie Robidoux,

I am a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, photographer, and educator. I support Bill L.D.716. There are several reasons why these animals should not be allowed to be hunted 365 days a year or at night.

1. Coyotes have complex social structures. Removing dominant individuals can lead to increased breeding among young coyotes. "Researchers from the University of New Hampshire and North Carolina State University used data from over 4500 camera traps to study coyotes across multiple different habitats including alpine mountains, forests, grasslands and suburban/urban settings. The UNH research team found that human hunting did not reduce coyote populations but instead led to an increase in coyote numbers, perhaps due to reproduction and immigration rates."

2. Coyotes play a crucial role in controlling rodent and small mammal populations. Over-hunting can lead to a rise in prey species, which may negatively affect vegetation and local wildlife.

3. Ineffective population control, studies have shown aggressive hunting pressure can trigger a survival response in coyotes, leading to larger litters and higher pup survival rates, making population control efforts counterproductive.

4. During the pup-rearing season, hunting can leave dependent young to starve, which is unethical and NOT good hunting practice.

5. Coyotes are largely self-regulating; their populations naturally adapt based on food availability, habitat conditions, and social structure.

6. Hunting coyotes at night is a hazard. Low visibility increases the risk of accidental shootings, misidentified targets, or injuring non-target wildlife, pets, or people. It also raises an ethical issue, as it can be an unfair advantage over the coyote that relies on the darkness for survival.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my testimony.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jackie Robidoux