

Roland Tilton
South China
LD 716

I am a retired game warden and have been a guide for 48 years.. I've had an opportunity to witness first hand the devastation that coyote have had upon our deer within our wintering habitat and on the ice. I've unfortunately had to respond over the years to predation on livestock. I witnessed first hand a pack of coyote kill two beagles, I was personally hunting one winter afternoon. There is no doubt in my mind, that as we continue to lose ground having to address these bills, often proposed by anti hunters or the Maine wolf coalition, even our children at the rural bus stops will inevitably face a potential threat. Coyote have killed a woman in NH, as well as Canada. There is no doubt in my mind that Maine's present year round open season on this predator has kept them back in the woodwork, away from our residential areas. Hounds have been the most effective tool to provide this weariness. The passing of a previous bill by this committee creating a dog trespass hurdle, may have resolved some genuine concerns, yet was likely part of an overall plan to eliminate the use of hounds. Immediately after the passing of this bill, the head of the Maine wolf coalition advised me that the use of all hunting hounds would be banned in this State. A short time later, we were back before this committee addressing another proposed season on coyote. It fortunately was defeated and now we're back visiting the same issue. When will this all end? I am adamantly opposed to this bill and pray that this committee acknowledges the potential implications that it could have on the state in rural as well as heavily populated areas.