

Pamela Vose  
OWLS HEAD  
LD 716

March 3, 2025

Honorable Joe Baldacci, Senate Chair  
Honorable Tiffany Roberts, House Chair  
Joint Legislative Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 716 - An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

My name is Pamela Vose, currently of Owls Head and formerly of Union where my late husband and I owned for 40 years, a small family farm where we raised Morgan Horses.

I am writing in support of LD 716 – An act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes

When we first purchased our farm, we had stable coyote families in the area. We never had any problem with them and understood that they were instrumental in helping to keep down the population of mice and other small animals that we did not want in our barn or for that matter in our house. The deer population was thriving too as evidenced by frequent raids of our vegetable garden.

One day we came home to find a truck parked on the side of our road and a man my husband was acquainted with preparing to turn several large dogs loose onto our property. My husband asked the man what he was doing and was told that he was going to let the dogs chase down and kill coyotes. He was told by my husband that we did not want dogs running at large across our property and killing coyotes because we found them to be beneficial to our farm. We also did not want dogs trained to kill anywhere near our horses which often included young foals. The man laughed and said that it was too bad because he couldn't control where his dogs would go and dogs didn't understand property lines. My husband reminded him that as a property owner he had the right to dispose of any animal threatening harm to our livestock and that included dogs. The man made no attempt to crate his dogs until my husband asked him if he should go get his shotgun now. Only then did the man crate his dogs and leave. It wasn't long after that experience that we noticed that the coyote voices we had heard so frequently were gone. They never returned. Coyote hunters with dogs were a frequent sight in the area and gunshots could be heard day and night year-round.

I strongly support this bill which will give this important animal the time, allowed to all other animals with hunting seasons, to raise and socialize its offspring without fear of entire families being wiped out or young pups left without parents.

Coyotes play a big part in the balance of nature. They are an important species to our ecosystems and should be allowed to play their part in nature. They are not "vermin" as they are so often portrayed by those who find pleasure in killing them. They cannot do their job if they are over hunted and the young need their parents to teach them how to coexist with our rapidly growing population expansion into their home.

I urge you to vote to approve this bill. All species have value and belong to all of us, not just the hunting and trapping enthusiasts.

Thank you,

Pamela Vose  
Owls Head, ME