

Dear committee members, my name is Eric Mitchell from Orland, Maine. I have grown up in Maine and spent a vast amount of time in the Maine woods, recreationally and as a Maine hunting guide. I am against LD 716. This is bad for Mainers and Maine wildlife. Coyotes are not a native species to Maine and since their arrival have been decimating are native wildlife such as foxes, hares, rabbits, bobcats, lynx, deer, and moose not to mention all the small mammals and birds. A year-round hunting season is necessary to keep coyote populations in check for Maine wildlife and the people of Maine so that there is a minimal amount of coyote/people problems such as attacks on people pets and livestock. Coyotes are never going away, they are extremely hard to hunt and trap, especially with the hunting and trapping regulations already in place. I believe the regulations that the state of Maine already has on hunting and trapping are fine the way they are and do not need to be changed. I beg you all to throw this bill in the trash and stop wasting taxpayers' money on feel good bills that would destroy Maines' native wildlife. Thank you all for your time and please vote this down for Maine and its native wildlife.

Sincerely Eric Mitchell