

Matthew Clark
New Sharon
LD 1293

I was born and have lived in Maine for 42 years now. I was not raised in a hunting family. My family was not opposed to hunting just chose not to do so. I began seriously hunting in my early 30s. Since then I have had the opportunity to provide food for my family from my hobbies of hunting, fishing, gardening and other food gathering opportunities. I look forward to these opportunities and my family has grown to appreciate them. I myself do not hunt coyotes, however I also choose not to hunt certain species of animals, not to garden certain fruits and vegetables or gather other food stuffs. This is my choice. I also realize there may come a day that I do choose to hunt coyotes for recreation or competition.

I believe everyone has their opinion and choices to make. Whether these choices are developed from our childhood upbringing, or we choose them later in life. There are stores I choose not to shop at. There are religions I choose not to follow. There are politics I do not agree with. However, this does not make any of them wrong or insignificant.

In reference to LD1293 my belief is whether you agree or disagree that is your choice and your right. You can choose not to be involved in the practice. You can discuss this with others and further understand what makes your community members who they are.

Therefore, I encourage that LD 1293 Ought Not To Pass.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.