

Geri Gajewski
South Portland
LD 1293

TESTIMONY OF Geri Gajewski

[title if appropriate]

In SUPPORT of LD 1293 “An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine”
Committee of Inland Fisheries Wildlife
April 2, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Committee. My name is Geri Gajewski and I am from South Portland. I am writing in support of LD1293. Coyotes are critical to our ecosystem and are a keystone carnivore to keep our forests, farmlands and landscape in balance. When passed, this bill will give coyotes refuge from human behavior while they are raising their pups. This prevents the disruption of the natural cycle that is essential and beneficial to healthy environment. This benefits the forest ecosystem and helps farmers by controlling the behavior of herbivores, protects the farm's hoofed livestock from the brain worm carried by deer and prevents deer browsing when there is a stable coyote pack within an established territory. Additionally, a healthy population of coyotes in the Maine woods provides the protects biodiversity which is necessary to combat climate change. Please support this legislation to protect Coyotes in Maine and to prevent their use as part of a killing contest.