

Susan Kistenmacher  
Farmingdale  
LD 1293

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Committee,  
I urge you to support LD 1239 "An Act To Prohibit Coyote Killing Contests in  
Maine."

I am surprised and embarrassed that our state, which prides itself on rich hunting  
ethics and traditions would hold killing contests.

These contests promote cruelty and disrespect for wildlife, deplete lands of wild  
carnivores, and serve no management or conservation purpose.

A healthy coyote population is an important part of Maine's ecosystem. These  
keystone predators control rodent and small mammal populations which in turn  
protect native plants and crops and reduces the transmission of zoonotic diseases such  
as Lyme. In addition, coyotes consume carrion and remove sick animals from the  
gene pool.

Further, Coyote Killing Contests are not a tool for coyote management, because the  
indiscriminate killing of coyotes actually increases their population. To quote the  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website: "Because pup survival  
increases as competition decreases, hunting and trapping can enhance pup survival."  
In addition, this is not anti-hunting legislation. This is about one egregious hunting  
practice that has no place in Maine.

Coyote Killing Contests are cruel, inhumane and violate fundamental hunting ethics.  
I urge you to support LD 1239.