

Andrea Lani
Whitefield
LD 1293

Dear Committee Members,

I live in the rural community of Whitefield. Frequently throughout the year we can hear the yips and cries of coyotes out on a night hunt. The sound never fails to send a thrill through my spine, and as I fall asleep listening to the pack at its work, I'm reassured that even here in this community of farms and urban refugees there exists a remnant of the wild.

While I frequently hear coyotes, and occasionally come upon their tracks in the woods, I have never seen one in 25 years on this land. They are nocturnal, shy, and retiring. I have raised three small children and flocks of chickens and ducks here without the slightest fear of coyotes.

Far from being a menace or pest, in fact, coyotes are a boon, benefiting farmers, homeowners, and our forests in many ways. Hunting in packs, they help to manage deer, both in taking down individuals and keeping the herds moving, reducing the problems an overabundance of deer can cause, such as over-browsing our trees, damage to farm crops and wild plants needed by pollinator species, spread of brain worm among the herds, and spread of Lyme disease to humans and their pets.

Aside from the ecosystem services that coyotes provide, there is the richness they bring to our lives, as one of the few remaining apex predators in our woods. It is barbaric to hold contests to kill these remarkable creatures for fun. And it's especially cruel to kill them during vulnerable periods in their lives, such as pupping season.

The Maine Woods, and our lives as Mainers, would be greatly diminished without these canids singing their nighttime songs. I urge you to vote yes on LD 1293 and stop the senseless killing of coyotes in Maine.

Sincerely,
Andrea Lani
Whitefield