

Esther Mechler  
Brunswick, Maine  
LD 1293

TESTIMONY OF Esther Mechler 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 Esther Mechler and I am from Brunswick.

Polls show the vast majority of the public, including hunters, are against killing contests. This bill has been endorsed by many state and national conservation and wildlife organizations. Ten states have banned wildlife killings contests: Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington, Oregon and New York. Times are changing and people are appalled to see this sort of cruelty - and to have their children's hearts hardened to suffering in any living being.

Predator and prey species are vital to a healthy ecosystem. With man's eradication of wolves, coyotes are essential to control rodent and small mammal populations, cull sick and injured animals and eat wildlife that harbor ticks / Lyme disease. Coyotes are ecologically vital top carnivores in Eastern US biodiversity.

Are they a danger to us? Healthy coyote families are typically wary of humans, and attacks are extremely rare. There is no reason to be killing them for fun; that is the mark of a barbaric society. These “derbies”, often held under the guise of “wildlife management”, have never had the official support of the Department of IF&W

Such a barbaric form of "entertainment" has no place in the 21st century. Or in Maine, a beautiful and - we hope - a peaceful place. Support 1293 Please.