

Jackie Robidoux
Greenville Maine
LD 1293

Dear Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is Jackie Robidoux; I am a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and educator. I've been a part-time resident of Maine since 2010. I am in full support of LD 1293, An Act to Prohibit Coyote-Killing Contests in Maine. Scientific evidence shows that the indiscriminate killing of coyotes—the most frequently targeted animal by wildlife killing contests—is counterproductive. Random killing disrupts pack structure, potentially leading to increased coyote populations and conflict with humans, farmed animals, and companion animals. A recent study by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) revealed that nationwide coyote surveys highlight how hunting may increase, rather than decrease, local coyote numbers. Working with coyotes' natural self-regulating population dynamics better supports wildlife coexistence in Maine's communities. Coyotes help control rodent populations, clean up carrion, and contribute to maintaining biodiversity. These contests undermine sound wildlife management practices. Ten states have already banned wildlife killing contests. As public awareness grows, more states are recognizing these events as outdated and unnecessary. Recent nationwide polling shows that over 80% of the U.S. public support states banning wildlife killing contests. These contests harm the reputation of hunting and violate ethical hunting principles. Animals are often injured or orphaned during contests, and non-target species face risks. This contradicts Maine's strong hunting heritage. Killing for prizes disrespects wildlife. These contests reduce animals to disposable targets, showing no regard for their ecological or inherent value.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jackie Robidoux