

SUSANNA RICHER  
Portland  
LD 937

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering my comments regarding LD 937, An Act to Establish a Permit to Hunt Coyote over Bait.

While I'm not certain of the motivation behind this bill id, I support any effort to regulate, reduce and track the currently unrestricted and wasteful slaughter of coyote in Maine.

The use of bait to trap and kill animals it's not only unnecessary and inhumane, but dangerous as it trains a coyote that's eating its natural diet of rodents and sick or weak animals, to feed off food that's provided by humans instead.

Additionally, baiting often attracts, injures and sometimes kills unintended wildlife and companion animal species.

Bait piles are often made-up of carrion containing lead ammunition fragments that poison birds of prey such as eagles and the other animals who feed off the bait. The lead tainted bait piles also contaminate our water and soil which results in toxic lead in our plants and in animals that ingest them.

I know many of us would be grateful for any small step forward in the regulation of coyote "hunting" and reduction of wanton waste in our state.

Susanna Richer  
Portland