

Testimony Neither for Nor Against L.D. 937-An Act to Establish a Permit to Hunt Coyote Over Bait

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On behalf of The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc.

South China, Maine

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There are no coyotes in Maine. For this reason, this bill is meaningless. I have brought this issue to this committee's attention several times during this legislative session and the committee has failed to consider it.

Maine has coyote/wolf hybrids. All so-called "coyotes" in Maine are coyote/wolf hybrids or wolves. There is no definition of "coyote" in Maine rule or statute.

To my knowledge, there is no prohibition to hunt "coyotes" over bait. Therefore, the reason for this legislation is not known.

For the bill to have any legal meaning, it should be amended to include a science-based definition of "coyote". It should also be amended to require that all canids killed be tagged and brought to the department. Because it is impossible to determine if an animal is a wolf simply by looking at it, the department should be required to have a DNA analysis of every animal meeting certain minimum criterion to include wolf pups.