

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
IN OPPOSITION OF L.D. 1179**

**“AN ACT TO EXPAND COYOTE HUNTING TO EVERY DAY OF THE  
COYOTE SEASON AND TO ELIMINATE FEES”**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative McCrea of Fort Fairfield**

**CO-SPONSORED BY:** Senator Jackson of Aroostook  
Representative Collings of Portland  
Representative DeVeau of Caribou  
Representative Dodge of Belfast  
Representative Doore of Augusta  
Representative Martin of Sinclair  
Representative Stanley of Medway  
Representative Stewart of Presque Isle  
Representative Verow of Brewer

**DATE OF HEARING: March 25, 2019**

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Resource Management Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 1179**.

This bill as written, would abolish the coyote night hunting permit fee and would allow hunters to hunt coyotes on Sundays year-round.

We certainly recognize and appreciate the intent of this bill to provide additional opportunities to reduce our coyote population. Currently, we have a very liberal coyote hunting season. You can hunt coyote during daylight hours from January 1 – December 31. There is also a night hunting season by permit from December 17 – August 31. There is also a trapping season from October 14 – December 31. There are no bag limits set for any of the seasons that coyote can be harvested.

The administration recognizes that over ninety four percent of Maine is privately owned and that landowners prefer to have Sunday as a day that they can enjoy their land and allow other stewards opportunities to recreate without hunting related concerns. I would also advise the committee that the removal of the coyote night hunting permit would have a negative fiscal impact on the Department's already lean budget.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.