



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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4 February 2019

Representative Cathryn Harvey
Chair, House Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee
PO Box 414, 50 Forestview Drive
Spofford, NH 03462-0414

Dear Representative Harvey,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose House Bill 442 which would prohibit coyote hunting from April 1 through August 31. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat, and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members and our membership includes hunters, landowners, and numerous wildlife and forestry professionals.

Predators are a hot topic for deer hunters and managers throughout much of the whitetail's range. Black bears, wolves and bobcats each take their share of deer, but coyotes are receiving the lion's share of attention. Several recent research projects in the southeastern U.S. have shown significant impacts on fawn survival and recruitment rates.

From a predator control perspective, 25 of 37 states (68 percent) in the Northeast, Southeast and Midwest allow coyote hunting 365 days a year. However, given coyotes' high reproductive potential and ability to avoid humans, it is unlikely that hunting alone will sufficiently reduce coyote numbers in most situations. Some population models suggest you have to remove 75 percent of coyotes annually to lower their numbers. Given this, there is no biological reason to restrict coyote harvest from April 1 through August 31.

We urge you to oppose House Bill 442. Thank you for your time and your commitment to New Hampshire's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation