

Dear, Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Jason Emch a business owner and avid coyote hunter who works extensively with farmers and livestock owners to effectively manage our states coyote population. I would like to voice my opinion with regards to the proposed changes for coyote hunting and trapping in the state of Ohio and why House Bill 553 is so important. Currently the laws and regulations governing coyote hunting are quite liberal, because of these individuals such as myself can not only manage the existing coyote population but effectively target problem coyotes.

I have personally hunted coyotes for over 20 years and have also studied countless documents and published research, some by our very own Stanley D. Gehrt P.H. of The Ohio State University. It is my conclusion that annihilation of the species is nearly if not totally impossible. This being the case we must manage them and coexist.

As a coyote goes through their life cycle their needs change. These needs are seasonal and even sometimes random. A coyote in the spring has an overwhelming urge to feed and raise their young. During this time livestock damage can be extensive. In the fall we see the young of the year leaving their home range and establishing new territory, again this is a time for livestock damage. It is extremely important that during these times we have the capability and freedom to eliminate those causing the problem. By imposing more restrictions, regulations, and timelines our ability to manage this species is greatly hindered. House Bill 553 gives us this freedom to manage coyote populations and protect our property without unnecessary nuisance permits and lengthy timelines to obtain them.

I appreciate your time and consideration for passing House Bill 553.

Yours truly

Jason Emch