

Dear Committee Members,

As we have shared previously, we support the current version of H.411 to include coyotes. To omit coyotes—an animal who needs wanton waste protections the most—would be a mistake.

I'd like to quickly address Rep. Morgan's mention of coyotes being an invasive species. Coyotes are not zebra mussels. In fact, many consider them a keystone species here in the northeast.

When Vermont hunters and trappers exterminated the wolf and catamount, we left Vermont without an apex predator, who are vital contributors to healthy ecosystems. It was only a matter of time before that void was filled. It has been filled by a unique hybrid; the Eastern Coyote that shares both wolf (and domestic dog) DNA.

The USDA, USDI, and even the VT FWD are all citable on this: [coyotes are not invasive.](#)

A species is defined as "invasive" by the USDA and Dept of the Interior by meeting two criteria:

1. It is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, and
2. Its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

[https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/eo\\_13112.pdf](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/eo_13112.pdf)

The VT FWD makes clear that the coyote does not meet the second prerequisite (it poses no general "economic or environmental harm or harm to human health") but to the contrary, "...the coyote plays an important role in the ecosystem. It is one of Vermont's major large mammalian predators." All of this is found on their website.

**Thank you to those who are leading this effort. The public is paying attention. The nation is watching Vermont.**

Jane

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Coalition Lead

<https://www.vermontcoyote.org/>