Dear Rep. Mushinsky and the Environmental Committee,
(Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave, Hartford CT 06106)

My name is Jonathan Way. I have conducted research for years in Massachusetts on eastern coyotes/coywolves and have successfully captured dozens of them in box traps (see references). I understand there is movement to potentially ban foot/leg-hold traps in CT. It is important to realize that the vast majority of people do not trap and there is really no legitimate need to do it in the modern world given that “problem” coyotes (a subjective term) are so few and far between and simple measures to coexist with wildlife are often more effective than killing them (for instance, leaving cats inside and leashing dogs when outside).

Getting captured in a foot-hold is only the beginning of misery for that animal. If it doesn’t get hurt in the trap it then sits in that area until the trapper arrives where the person then kills the animal by either clubbing it to death to preserve its pelt or gets shot by a gun at close range. That is the life of a trapped animal. While it may make sense to keep them legal for research purposes, I have demonstrated with well over 50 captures that one can capture all age and sex classes of coyotes in box traps. Unfortunately, this isn’t convenient to state wildlife departments and their “constituents” (i.e., trappers) so these data are routinely ignored (even here in Massachusetts) to state that leg-hold traps are needed. The contrary is true. It is unfortunate that a rural, need to control them using foot-hold traps mentality is still alive and prevalent in our wildlife departments.

For more information, please visit these References which can be downloaded directly from: [http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/publicationspage/](http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/publicationspage/)


Sincerely,

Jonathan (Jon) Way, Ph.D.
89 Ebenezer Road
Osterville MA 02655

Please visit my websites: (1) Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research ([http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/](http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/)) where you can purchase my books *Suburban Howls* and *My Yellowstone Experience*, read peer-reviewed Publications, and support creating a wildlife watching refuge in the town of Barnstable; and (2) *My Yellowstone Experience* which details my experiences viewing the spectacular hydrothermal features, scenery, and wildlife within Yellowstone National Park.