

RESOLUTION NO. R 012 13

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR REGULATIONS PERMITTING THE LAWFUL YEAR-ROUND HARVEST OF THE EASTERN COYOTE IN DELAWARE

WHEREAS, the Eastern coyote is a known predator throughout the United States, with a documented presence in 49 states, including Delaware; and

WHEREAS, the population of the Eastern coyote is on the rise, even in places like Sussex County, once thought to be immune from the predator because of its geography; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern coyote is a wild, non-native species that preys on a host of native and domesticated animals, livestock, and others, and poses a detriment to both public safety and local industries, not the least of which include tourism and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County's agriculture industry is a \$3.8 billion economy, responsible for employing tens of thousands of farmers, laborers, processing employees and others, both directly and indirectly, and is threatened by the unfettered growth of the Eastern coyote population; and

WHEREAS, unprecedented residential development has occurred throughout the region, including in Sussex County, in the past several decades, potentially putting residents in closer contact with the coyote population; and

WHEREAS, without an aggressive, concerted approach toward preventing the further spread of the Eastern coyote species, the predator's population could swell unabated in the years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sussex County Council hereby urges the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to promulgate regulations that allow for the lawful year-round harvesting of coyotes, in the interest of protecting the local economy and ensuring public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator shall send an official copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for consideration.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. R 012 13 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST 2013.



**ROBIN A. GRIFFITH
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**