

My family tree of Maine-born relatives goes back five generations on my mother's side and five generations on my father's side.

Maine has not endured the urban sprawl that most of the country has. The wildness and green spaces and clean air and clean water throughout most of the state is truly taken for granted. So is the wildlife.

Maine's bears have been hunted for hundreds of years; but what is VERY different in 2019 compared to year's past is that the climate is changing. We are on the verge on a Lyme disease epidemic here in Maine. Our bats and bees are on the endangered species list. Every summer for the past six years in a row it's been the hottest on record. This summer is projected to start early and be hotter than any other year. The idea that you or anyone would endorse hunting bears this spring when every environmental challenge lies ahead of them (and us), setting a stage for a black swan event not unlike the surprise moose die-offs, is completely illogical.

Can you really, in good conscience, justify a trophy hunting season for the University of Maine's mascot just for a few dollars? And knowing that so many orphaned cubs will also be given a death sentence from starvation. To what end?

I strongly oppose this idiotic proposal, LD 337. It's unnecessary, unethical, and an attempt to empower the kill thrill seekers of humankind. Maine's wild resources deserve better wildlife management than this proposal clearly indicates we currently have. So do my future generations.

Respectfully,

Lynn Andrews  
Auburn, Maine