

## Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 337 "An Act To Start a Spring Bear Hunting Season"

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Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and committee members. My name is John Glowa, Sr. I live in China and I am speaking today on my own behalf.

Maine's so-called bear "management" program is a perverse hoax, created by the Maine legislature and perpetuated by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It was established for political and monetary reasons. By IFW's own estimation, it has grown Maine's bear population by at least 50% in the last fifteen years. As intended, it has provided more and bigger targets for hunters and trappers and more revenue for IFW. By IFW's own claims, Maine's bear population exceeds the natural carrying capacity by several thousand. It will soon reach, if it hasn't already, the social carrying capacity.

This proposal is part of a natural and very corrupt progression. The first step was for the legislature to create a bear feeding program. The next was to grow the bear population artificially with tons of junk food dumped in the woods. Then justify the feeding program with lies and scare tactics as the bear population continued and continues to increase. And now, propose to kill more bears as a solution to the problem the legislature created in the first place.

In a 2015 report by researchers at USM titled "Controlling the Black Bear Population in Maine" it is written, "...using bait increases the black bear population to very high levels..." During the conduct of their systems dynamics analysis of Maine's bear management system, the researchers found that: (1) IFW has estimated the natural carrying capacity for bears at 32,000; (2) historically, bears in Maine typically produced an average of two cubs every other year; (3) IFW has known for years that many bears are now producing litters every year and average litter sizes have increased from two to three cubs; (4) this increase

correlates with the growth of the bear feeding program; and, (5) Maine's bear feeding program is increasing the availability of food by 45% during the months of hyperphagia-when bears are feeding heavily preparing for hibernation. The researchers concluded that the only way to control the bear population and keep the bear feeding program is to increase the killing of female bears and cubs. They also stated "...the state could prohibit the baiting of bears, to keep the carrying capacity and therefore the bear population from continuously increasing. This would be an ethical solution, but it would have financial consequences for the hunting industry in Maine."

This is a bill by and for the hunting industry, of which IFW is a major player and advocate. Period.

Contrary to the beliefs of some on this committee, your role is not to advocate for increased opportunities to kill the public's wildlife. Your role is not to advocate for special interests whose intent is to make more money by killing the public's wildlife. Your role is to represent the public interest. Is feeding bears to artificially grow the bear population so they can be killed by hunters-most of whom don't reside in Maine-in the public interest? Is killing female bears and cubs to control an overpopulation that you the legislature created-in the public interest?

Any state or nation that promotes the special interest over the public interest invites revolution and is doomed to failure. For the record, Maine's fish and wildlife revolution is just beginning.

Thank you.

LD 337 spring bear killing