



# North Maine Woods, Inc.

"Managing multiple use of Maine's forests for over 35 years"

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TO: Chair Dill, Chair Nadeau and Distinguished Members of the Committee  
FROM: Al Cowperthwaite, Executive Director  
DATE: February 11, 2019  
RE: LD 337- An Act to Allow a Spring Bear Hunting Season

My name is Al Cowperthwaite, and I am from Houlton. I am the Executive Director of North Maine Woods. As most of you know, North Maine Woods is a non-profit organization that manages access and public use of 3.5 million acres of private forestland in northwestern Maine in addition to the 180,000 acre Katahdin Ironworks/Jo-Mary Forest tract located between Brownville and Greenville. I am here to represent the private landowners of this organization and to state that we are not in favor of LD 337.

As most of you know, in rural Maine the spring season is referred to as "mud season." This is the time of year when forest operations cease due to the negative impact vehicles and other machinery have on forest roads.

Road maintenance is a very costly for landowners. A spring bear hunt would inevitably increase traffic on private forest roads at a time when roads are susceptible to damage. If LD 337 was to pass, landowners may be forced to prohibit public access on their roads at this time of year to avoid related road damage and associated repair cost.

We have also been responsible for administering and overseeing the placement of over 2500 bait sites for the fall bear hunt, a management program we initiated in 1986. We have a history of working with Department Biologists to better manage the bear population and we will continue to do so in the interest of maintaining a healthy black bear population in Maine.

Below is a list of landowners that oppose LD 337:

AMC Woods Initiative LLC  
Clayton Lake Woodlands LLC  
Conservation Forestry LLC  
Dunn Heirs  
Dunn Timberlands Inc.  
Fish River Company  
Great North Woods, LLC  
Griswold Heirs  
Huber Resources Corp.  
Irving Woodlands LLC  
John Cassidy Timberholdings  
Katahdin Forest Management LLC  
Lost River Company

McCrillis Timberlands, LLC.  
Merriweather LLC  
North Woods Maine LLC  
Pingree Associates, Inc.  
Prentiss & Carlisle Co, Inc  
Sandy Gray Forest LLC  
St. John Timber LLC  
Sylvan Timberlands LLC  
The Nature Conservancy  
Webber Timberlands  
Yankee Fork Corp.