

Roger Chisholm
Saco, Maine
LD 139

Good day. My name is Roger Chisholm. A resident of Saco Maine.

I am offering this testimony in support of LD 139. I believe it's time to offer hunters the option of tagging deer electronically. In whatever form this needs to be in order for biologists to still attain their needed info. Whether that offers restricted days to register deer electronically, or restricted zones if needed. This is a strong option, particularly in southern Maine.

It's getting difficult to find hunting space in southern Maine. The Nature Conservancy allows hunting on their heath preserve here in Saco. They do request that hunters do not use their Buxton road entrance for access. They understand the potential conflicts between hunters and non hunters. All hunters I know honor that request, realizing the benefit that it produces less conflict. Which is what allowing electronically tagging deer would also produce. Less conflict at tagging stations, which are sometimes convenience stores. Transporting deer legally means leaving them partially exposed. It potentially means conflict in a public space. While I am all for meaningful debate about the merits of hunting, a convenience store is not a favorite forum.

I'm sure tagging deer and other as species is still welcome at alot of stores, along with the good will and camaraderie of shared experiences it bring. But things seem to be shifting as more people settle into southern Maine. We need to adjust our approach just a bit. I do believe this pilot program could help alleviate bad imagery for some. This type of program seems to work in 26 other states, and is used here for registering turkeys I believe.

As a hunter for a few decades, I am extremely grateful for the continued work of Maine Inland Fish and Game. Well done one and all. The deer population thrives under your your care and dedicated efforts. Thank you.

A big thank you to Senator Donna Bailey for supporting this proposal, and a shout out to Samuel Baker for all the guidance

Once again, thank you all.