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## **Testimony - Opposition**

### **LD 2014, An Act Related to Sunday Hunting**

**Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of SAM-ILA**

**March 14, 2022**

The honorable Senator Dill, Rep. Landry and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is David Trahan, and I am representing the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action testifying in opposition to sections of *LD 2014, An Act Related to Sunday Hunting* and in support of Sunday hunting in general.

For years our organization has stood alone in front of this committee supporting Sunday hunting. This bill is not Sunday hunting, it is reverse posting and legislation that establishes the new principle that landowners somehow have a greater right to harvest wildlife on Sunday, than Maine citizens who may not be able to afford land of their own and have long court established jurisdiction over natural resource management.

We resent the fact that we have to come here and testify against a policy we have supported in the past and continue to support today.

Currently, land that is not posted is assumed to be open for the public for hunting purposes. Passing this bill will flip that policy on its head to, "all access for hunting is denied on Sunday, unless a person has written permission". Tom Doak is right, if this policy is proposed and passed, landowners will ask this simple question, if written permission is appropriate on Sunday, why not all week?

If this bill is passed in its current form, landowners will no longer have to post their land, if they don't want hunting. They can hunt themselves and give permission to their friends. The next step is, "I want payment for access to my land" or pay to play.

If the committee wants to pass a Sunday hunting bill, we would support a simple bill that allows Sunday hunting for all and we have no problem restricting the hunting to certain parts of the State or certain seasons. Please do not support this potentially harmful reverse posting bill.