Loon Document 958

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Honorable Representative Hepler
Honorable Senator Ingwersen
Honorable Representatives: Dill, Doudera, Fay, Landry, Mason and Roeder
Honorable Senator Black

Dear Committee Members my name is Laura Harris. As a resident of Ripley, Maine and Volunteer Regional Coordinator for Maine Audubon Loon Count I strongly support the following Legislative Document No. 958. “An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs”.

It is common knowledge that lead is harmful to humans, animals, the avian world as well as plant and water quality. Our Loons are very special and need our help. Why would we wait when we have the ability to correct the problem. Loons on our local pond have had problems reproducing due to human interference. They are being poisoned by lead fishing tackle and tangled in fishing line left behind. Maine’s own Avian Haven Sanctuary has had documented cases of lead poisoning in Loons as well as Bald Eagles. Maine Audubon, Audubon and Cornell University all agree lead poisoning is detrimental to the health of birds and wildlife. The cost to replace tackle is minimal compared to the damage to Loon and Wildlife health. It is up to us to implement Document No. 958.

This Bill is a step in the correct direction. I wonder why we are waiting till 2026 for this action to take effect. Please vote to pass this bill. You have the power to protect our Loons & Wildlife. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Laura Harris

References

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