



May 8th, 2023

Dear Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

My name is Mary Jewett and I am the Director of Education and Invasives Prevention at the Lakes Environmental Association.

LEA strongly supports LD 958: " An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs"

One of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had was a summer internship at Avian Haven, the bird rehabilitation center in Freedom. Although this years ago, I remember vividly the feeling of helplessness when a loon came into the center behaving abnormally. There was a sense of dread while we waited for the x-rays to show the tell-tale bright spots, proof of lead inside the bird. This was accompanied by the knowledge that much of the damage was already done, and that removing the lead wasn't going to magically heal the loon. It wasn't like removing a hook, or sewing up a cut, the heavy metal was impacting neurological processes, showing that the lead had already leached into the body.

LD 958 takes us one step closer to eliminating this scene for wildlife in Maine. Removing any and all lead tackle should be the ultimate goal for anyone who values Maine's amazing natural resources. Education is critical, but allowing any sale of this heavy metal sends a mixed message to anglers. If lead is so dangerous, why can one still buy it in any form?

Passing this bill would send a clear message that the State of Maine is serious about wildlife conservation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I encourage you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 958.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jewett".

Mary Jewett
Director of Education and Invasives Prevention



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