

Dr. Tammy Cloutier
Kennebunk
LD 1823

Dear Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry,

Unfortunately, I was not able to offer my testimony in person, so I am writing to urge you to OPPOSE LD 1823 An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food. Do not be fooled by the title. At first glance this bill may seem to be in the best interest of Maine citizens, but IT IS NOT.

LD 1823 is unacceptable for multiple reasons. This includes threatening multiple Maine statutes that offer critical protections to our wildlife, our environment, and Maine landowners while disrespecting the legislature's authority and agencies that create and enforce these vital protections.

Please look carefully at the language that is hidden within this bill. LD 1823 is unacceptable as written because the harmful open-ended language can be twisted to:

- Eliminate numerous Maine statutes that protect landowners, wildlife, and the environment.
- Prohibit the enforcement of Maine's wildlife, animal welfare, and environmental protection statutes.
- Legalize activities that are opposed by the majority of Mainers (including Sunday hunting and even participation in the bear bile trade) – with the state being unable to stop it.
- Designate OUR wildlife as objects that can be owned and used however one chooses, and equates killing wildlife for any reason to the act of picking berries or harvesting a crop.

The potential implications of the language in LD 1823 will have far reaching and dangerous effects for Maine, its citizens, its wildlife, and its environment. Please do not allow LD 1823 to move forward.

Thank you for your time.