



CITY OF BANGOR

Testimony of Jose Saavedra, Airport Director, Bangor International Airport, City of Bangor

Before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

in Support of LD 138 – An Act to Exempt Airports from Certain State Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat Protections.

Monday, January 27, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Jose F. Saavedra, and I am the Airport Director of Bangor International Airport (BGR) owned and operated by the City of Bangor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 138 – *An Act to Exempt Airports from Certain State Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat Protections*.

Bangor International Airport supports over 38,000 aircraft operations annually, averaging 105 per day. Operating 24/7, we serve domestic and international airlines, military and cargo operations, charter services, and medical flights.

While we support the goals of the Maine Endangered Species Act, we are deeply concerned about the safety of more than 740,000 passengers and crew members who rely on our airport each year should LD 138 fail.

At BGR, we work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement an approved Wildlife Hazard Management Program that reduces bird strikes and minimizing wildlife impacts. Despite BGR's robust program, according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) records, in 2024, BGR had 13 aircraft – wildlife collisions, and there were 46 similar incidents at airports across the state of Maine. As a federally regulated airport, we follow strict FAA guidelines to reduce wildlife hazards, including:

- Maintaining grass at specific heights to deter rodents that attract predatory birds.
- Preventing standing water and ensuring proper drainage to discourage waterfowl.
- Controlling insects by clearing earthworms from paved surfaces after rain events.
- Installing metal bird spikes on airfield signs and structures to deter nesting and perching.

Due to the nature of airports, we do not believe they are appropriate environments to foster endangered species habitats, as doing so creates unnecessary risks for passengers, pilots, and crews.

I respectfully urge your support for LD 138 to ensure safe airport operations and a balanced approach to conservation.

Jose Saavedra
Bangor International Airport
LD 138

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