

To: Senator Rachel Talbot Ross and Members of the Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

From: Kathy Hoppe, Vice President of the Central Aroostook Kennel Club  
Portage Lake, ME 04768. Tydavent@yahoo.com

Date: January 28, 2025

Re: LD 133, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs

Position: Oppose

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I am asking you to oppose the proposed change to the definition to Nuisance Dogs. The proposal is too restrictive failing to provide exceptions that reflect many of Maine's traditional dog sport activities and fails to recognize existing local nuisance dog regulations (Title 7 § 3950)

1. Hare or rabbit hunting with beagles often occurs off the *"owner's or keeper's"* property. Excited beagles bay their excitement which actually helps guide the handler/hunter to the dog's location. While I am not a fan of hunting bear with dogs, they too are voicetress hunters.
2. Sled dog/mushing/skijoring are also dog sports that often occur off the *"owner's or keeper's premises"*. Excited dogs bark and whine with enthusiasm. While training these canine athletes handlers require miles of trails often off the *"owner's or keeper's premises."*. For well known races like the CanAm International Dog sled race, a qualifying race for the famed Iditarod, teams travel 250 miles across property that is not the *'owners or keeper's premises'*.
3. Other dog events such as agility, flyball, and dog breed shows, result in barking dogs, yet this proposal fails to allow for any of these events. According to the [AKC economic impact data](#), in 2023 Maine held 125 dog events, 11,000 people participated with an economic impact of \$2.15 million. This law endangers all fails to recognize and provide exceptions to any of these activities.
4. This proposal also conflicts with the ability of cities and towns to adopt rules specific to their geography. In many rural areas of the state dog enthusiasts participate in some of the previously mentioned activities. There is no need to adopt LD133 when under [Title 7 § 3950](#), each municipality is empowered to adopt ordinances, laws or regulations dealing with animals that best fits their community and geography.

I encourage the Committee to allow existing dog nuisance regulations ([Title 7 § 3950](#)) be used to address local municipal level problems. It is at this level that Maine's diverse geography and population density can best be recognized and accommodated.

Thank you for your time.