

February 6, 2025

Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Tyler Brown and I submit the following testimony in **opposition** to LD 133 “An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Nuisance Dogs”

I can understand part of the reasoning behind this bill, as a rural resident that enjoys the quiet life of a country setting, a loud, constantly barking dog can at times be aggravating.

However, amending Maines Revised Statute to include labeling barking dogs as a nuisance, is unnecessary. Under Title 7, Part 9, Chapter 725, Maine law provides the opportunity for municipalities to set their own ordinances in regards to barking dogs, allowing each town to account for unique situations..

This broad sweeping amendment would override local municipalities' ability to enforce these carefully crafted ordinances that allow neighbors to reside in peace while still respecting dog owners' unique situations.

This law also allows no exemption that respects Maines long standing tradition of hunting with dogs. Many hunters in Maine utilize scent tracking and treeing dogs that are trained over many years to pursue scents and alert hunters by barking that their target quarry is nearby. This law would allow anyone to file a complaint against someone either training or hunting with dogs up to 30 days after the incident, leaving little opportunity for the owners to defend themselves and provides ample opportunity for abuse from illegitimate complaints.

LD133 is an unnecessary amendment to the definition of a nuisance dog that overrides local municipalities ability to create ordinances that best suit their own unique circumstances, and jeopardizes Maines long standing hunting tradition of hunting with dogs.

I urge you to unanimously vote “ought not to pass”, to allow for a government that is closer to the people to enact laws that best suit their communities, and preserve Maine's hunting traditions.

Thank you all for your time, and service to our state.