

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 133

“An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs”

SPONSORED BY: Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram and
Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representative: WOODSOME of Waterboro.

DATE OF HEARING: February 6, 2025

Good morning, Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. I am Dan Scott, Colonel for the Maine Warden Service at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, providing this letter on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 133**.

As written, the bill amends the definition of Nuisance Dog to include the disruption of a person’s peace by “a dog that barks, howls or yelps excessively.” The current legal definition applies during situations that involve physical harm and damage. The statutes governing dogs that fall within this definition have significant consequences.

Our department has strong concern over possible unintended consequences of dogs in the act of hunting being included in the definition of nuisance dog. We would ask the Committee to consider amending the language within this bill to “exempt dogs in the act of hunting”. In another section of Title 7, section 3911 the prohibited act of “dogs at large” exempts dogs when used for hunting. If the committee accepts our request for an amendment we would like to recognize that the rest of the administration still has concerns as provided by those agencies.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions prior to or during the work session.