

Denise Harlow
Oquossoc
LD 138

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am Denise Harlow, a former representative who served on this committee for 8 years and am currently residing in Oquossoc, Maine

I am testifying in opposition to LD 138: An Act to Exempt Airports from Certain State Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat Protections and am extremely concerned about the scope of this bill as written.

Aviation safety is extremely important. To make this bill as effective and to focus on the important goal of enhancing safety, I feel the following changes should be made:

1. "Activity and development" should be limited to that only directly related to aviation. For example, a recycling plant for plastic bottles should not be under the purview of this bill.

2. A process for exemption must be clearly defined.

A. The size and location of the area of habitat should be clearly specified.

B. In addition to the most recent wildlife management plan, the need, methodology and follow up evaluation should be submitted for department review.

3. This bill, as stated in its title, only concerns endangered and threatened species and their habitat. Many people testified to problems with turkey, deer and coyote. These are not endangered or threatened species and should already be managed under the airport's existing wildlife management plan.

4. All animal strikes must be reported. How can a problem be managed when the data is not tracked?

Due to the ambiguity of this bill, an area for non-aviation related activity and development could be exempt and, thus, cause lasting and needless environmental damage. If this is allowed, this bill could be considered more of a real estate land clearing bill than an aviation safety bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Denise Harlow
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