

March 3, 2025

Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife committee,

My name is Gregory Smith and I live in Rockland. I am writing in opposition to LD 439.

I am a non-hunter who enjoys hiking in the woods of our beautiful state. Like many other Mainers. I limit my hiking to Sundays during fall deer hunting season. This is a great time to be in the woods, and I wish it was safer for me to hike on other days. But at least we have one day each week when the woods are free of humans with guns.

While I do not know the exact reason for this bill, I assume it has something to do with young people being in school during the week. Well, most adults are at work during the week. I have worked with many hunters and heard their stories of fitting in a quick hunt before and/or after work. Why should it be any different for young people?

I know that hunting is very popular in Maine, and that it is an important way for many residents to get food for themselves and their families. And I have no problem with that. But I want to remind the committee that there are also many Mainers who do not hunt and want to enjoy our natural environments. Please leave Sunday as the one day during the week for the non-hunters.

Thank you,

Greg Smith