



Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA)

205 Church Hill Road, Augusta, ME 04330

david@samofmaine.org

www.samila.org

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Testimony in Opposition of LD 866, An Act to Reduce Posting of Hunting Lands by Providing Free Antlerless Deer Permits to Certain Landowners Who Keep Their Lands Open to Hunting.

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director,
Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is David Trahan, Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action testifying in opposition to LD 866.

Although we strongly support landowners and understand that good landowner relations is key to public access. The idea that landowners should somehow have no fee for an antlerless deer permit establishes the policy that access is more important than a healthy Whitetail deer population.

The law that dedicated the antlerless deer permit fee for buying deer wintering habitat and managing deer yards was one the SAM ILA helped to write and pass. The law was essential to restoring deer in areas where habitat loss and predation had virtually wiped out the population. Every deer hunter, Mainer, and U.S. citizen has a responsibility to manage all our wildlife in a sustainable manner. Twelve dollars is little investment in achieving that important responsibility, especially when you understand that 50 other important wildlife species depend on this same habitat. Certain groups lobbying for free permits undermines the intent of the program, devalues our wildlife and forces all other Mainers to pay more to protect these important resources.

Thank you,

David Trahan

Executive Director, SAM-ILA