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LD 1293

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of LD1293. I believe I am a "typical" person who has had the experience of classic Maine hunting and fishing. At a young age, I hunted for deer with my father and, later in life, (I am now 72 years old) with friends and co-workers. I have hunted for deer in pretty much the entire State of Maine over the years. I have also hunted in other regions including Canada and Alaska. The objective of my hunting was not to get notches on my pistol grip, it was to be able to savor the delicacy of the result of a successful hunt. The same for my fishing experiences. The comradery that is a part of these activities creates good memories. Those good memories include being responsible and respectful of the act of hunting itself... the taking of a creature's life should not be reduced to merely a game of blood lust. Making meaningless what should be considered a profound activity should not be endorsed by the people of Maine. There is no need for such "contests". The Maine deer herd is not in danger of becoming extinct...the issuance of multiple deer permits, and the increased number of antlerless deer permits speak loudly against the argument that coyotes are reducing the deer numbers. In all my years of hunting, I have never seen a coyote chasing a deer...however, I have seen domesticated dogs doing so. Allowing such "contests" is demeaning and reflects poorly on the true hunter population. Please support LD1293. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the State of Maine.