

To: Senator Anne Beebe-Center Representative Tavis Hasenfus Joint Standing Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Kathy Hoppe, VP Central Aroostook Kennel Club

RE: LD 962, An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence
Resulting in the Death of a Pet

Position: Oppose

I am contacting you today to ask you to **Oppose LD 962**. While at first glance the proposed statute seems reasonable, who doesn't love their pet and who wouldn't be distraught when something preventable would take their beloved pets' life? However, this proposed law opens up a can of worms by changing the legal status of dogs.

By allowing non-economic damages there is the potential for many harmful unintentional consequences for pet owners and their pets. For example, by allowing non-economic damages changes pets' legal classification. Dogs are currently considered personal property, thus to recover non-economic damages the status of dogs would be changed from personal property to an unknown classification; how will that play out with current animal welfare laws? While LD 962 on the surface appears simple, its impact is actually very complicated and far reaching, therefore, we encourage you to vote ought not to pass.