

David Calkins  
Portland  
LD 1343

Dear Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee members,

My name is David Calkins. I'm waiting today to ask you to vote "no" on LD 1343 An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife.

I had the privilege of working as a commercial fisherman in Maine for almost 40 years. I love fishing, but I was forced to change careers late in life when our fishing stocks were depleted due to overfishing and environmental changes. Due to fishing restrictions put in place by Marine Resources, our fishing stocks have started to rebound.

Unfortunately, I am now too old to return to life on a boat.

I'm opposed to this bill because I do not believe that fishing or hunting are a right. These activities are a privilege that relies on healthy wildlife populations. Treating these activities as a right as opposed to a privilege can lead to abuses that risk our abilities to maintain healthy fish and wild animal populations for future generations.

I also do not believe that the term harvest should apply to recreational or sport fishing and hunting. That term at best should be applied only to fishing and hunting for sustenance, not for fun.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you.