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April 10, 2025

Testimony in Favor of L.D. 988, "An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property", before the Committee On Education and Cultural Affairs, presented by David Trahan, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is David Trahan. I am the Executive Director for Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action and I am testifying today in support of a resolution to the issue raised in L.D. 988, *An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine Property*.

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action would like to thank Senator Timberlake for sponsoring L.D. 988. We would also like to thank Samantha Warren, Chief External & Governmental Affairs Officer for the University of Maine. Given the sometime controversial nature of hunting and public access, Ms. Warren has conducted herself at the highest levels of professionalism.

When it was made public last year that the University would no longer allow hunting on their nearly 15,000 acres, both sides of the issue could have gone to their corners and hunkered down for a fight. They did not. Instead, a positive back and forth has led to significant progress toward a policy solution.

In discussions with the University and the sponsor of the bill, it is clear there could be a final hunting policy before the next hunting season, that strikes a balance between safety and wildlife management, that is acceptable to all.

We anticipate continued positive talks and feel it is likely this bill will be unnecessary. With that thought in mind, we hope the committee will hold this bill over until next legislative session and allow the policy to be finished and presented to the committee, sponsor and our organization for review, so we can assist to educate the public about the new conditions.

Again, thank you to the Senator Timberlake and Samantha Warren.

David Trahan, Executive Director  
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