

Testimony submitted for

SP 683, LD 1737

by

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Thank you for submitting these proposed changes to:

Senator Harold L. Stewart III, R - Aroostook

Senator Craig Hickman, D - Kennebec

Senator Bradlee Thomas Farrin, R - Somerset

Senator Joseph Baldacci, D - Penobscot

Representative Elizabeth M. Caruso, R - Caratunk

Overall, I am in support of these changes to LD 1737. I am a Master guide of almost 30 yrs, currently a full-time guide and have worked for multiple different sporting camps and outfitters. As you all are well aware there are challenges that some very remote camps face to run safely and provide quality service for their guests. That said, there are a couple of things I can see need to be adjusted to this proposal.

The first issue is with the wording of **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§14, ¶A.**

A. For the purposes of this subsection, "hunting outfitter" means a person who operates ~~a sporting camp as defined under Title 22, section 2491, subsection 11 that is licensed under Title 22, chapter 562 and who provides package deals that include food, lodging and the services of a guide licensed under chapter 927 for the purpose of hunting~~ commercial sporting camp as defined under Title 22, section 2491, subsection 2-C that is licensed under Title 22, chapter 562 and who provides the services of a guide licensed under chapter 927 for the purpose of hunting.

A commercial sporting camp not only provides or sub-contracts guides but also, as stated in the following section, "Commercial sporting camp" means a building or group of buildings devoted primarily to the offering of lodging, meals, equipment and professional guide services for a fee to persons engaged in hunting, fishing or snowmobiling... **This should be included in the initial Sec.**

My next concern and for me the biggest reason for this testimony, **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2491, sub-§2-C.** My biggest issue here is **subsection E.**

E. Is open to the public and is not restricted to members only;

As stated previously, I have worked at several camps, including a membership type camp I currently work at. If I read the proposed "commercial sporting camp" definition, this camp meets all of this with the exception of sub sec E.

My argument here is there is a core membership of 100 people, they bring guests and we host veterans' trips as well. The members support general camp operations but they pay per stay/ trip just like any other sporting camp. In a recent conversation (texts) with the MSCA President, Harvey Calden of Tim Pond Camps, he had this to say: "It is open to the public , you just have to pay a membership fee , just like we are open to the public and charge a fee by the day"

Then there is the argument that it is a gated area with no public access. OK, so is the entire NMW, you have to pay a gate fee, just like our members and guests.

These are a couple concerns I have with this proposal and I thank you for your time in consideration of theses points.

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LD 1737

Overall, I support this proposed legislation WITH modifications