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Testimony of Tom Doak
Executive Director

Maine Woodland Owners

In Favor of

LD 57

"An Act to Amend Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species List"

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, my name is Tom Doak, I am the Executive Director of Maine Woodland Owners speaking today in favor of LD 57, "An Act to Amend Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species List."

This bill makes amendments to Maine's list of endangered and threatened species. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has undertaken a thoughtful review of our threatened and endangered species list and is basing these proposed changes on sound science.

In Maine over 90% of lands are privately owned. These endangered and threatened species depend on the private lands for their habitat. Landowners care deeply about the wildlife on their properties. When landowners are asked why they own lands, wildlife often tops the list.

We hope that these new listings will bring more resources to the Department and that the good working relationship that exists between landowners and the Department regarding threatened and endangered species will continue.

Chapter Leaders

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.