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Testimony on

L.D. 614, "An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property"

**Presented by
Representative David Woodsome
District 139**

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
Monday, March 13, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

I am State Representative David Woodsome, and I proudly represent District 139, Limerick, Parsonsfield, and a portion of Waterboro. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 614, **"An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property."**

On behalf of many private landowners, I am requesting that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W) reinstate the policy of granting antlerless deer permits to landowners of 25 acres or more who allow the public to hunt on said land. This request is the result of numerous calls and in-person conversations with distraught landowners in relation to the current antlerless deer permit policy.

It is questioned if the DIF&W, and other influential policymakers involved with the decision to end the previous landowner antlerless permit policy, appreciate the vast acreage and personal efforts made by individual landowners to improve their property for the benefit of deer and other wildlife while keeping it accessible for public hunting. Some landowners have even expressed that they may post their land going forward if the present antlerless permit policy is maintained.

Thank you for your time and consideration. My hope is to work with the DIF&W to keep as much land available for hunting in Maine as possible while likewise showing appreciation to those landowners who over the years have kept their property unrestricted.