

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

I am Jim Alexander, and have guided moose hunters nearly every year since 1982. Either for friends, family, clients or other outfitters.

I am here today testifying in favor of LD 2194, "An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide," .

It has been my belief, over the years, after conferring with game wardens and other guides that guides had the ability to dispatch animals under extenuating circumstances. (ie. Due to age, illness, injury, disability, or safety the hunter is not able to do so.). The intent was always to have the hunter dispatch if at all possible.

It has come to my attention that although I have been following the intent of the law, I and most of the guide community, have not been following the letter of the law.

According to the way I read the law now, if I have a client that shoots an animal in the morning and is unable to dispatch it, I would have to wait until dark before I could euthanize the animal. This is just not common sense.

There are many more scenarios requiring a guide to dispatch during legal hunting hours than those that occur after legal hours. It is my understanding that the current wording was to also allow guides to dispatch after hours without infringing upon night hunting laws.

This is a matter of ethical treatment of hunted game and safety for the hunting party. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2194 to clarify when a wounded game animal may be dispatched by an authorized guide.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jim Alexander

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Alexander". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Jim Alexander".