



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon, Chairs Tepler and Duodera and all esteemed members of the ENR Committee.

I am Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford where we have the Sanford Regional Airport and director Allison Navia who initiated this Bill. You've heard how this bill will address the threat to public safety on airport land.

Airports and the municipalities that operate them, the military, the civil aviation industry, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Fish and Wildlife biologists all work closely to reduce the safety hazards and economic impacts to aviation caused by birds, mammals, and other wildlife. The State of Maine's current law operates in direct opposition to these efforts for safety by requiring the creation and encouragement of wildlife habitat on airfields. There are 35 public use airports in Maine which comprises 8,037 acres of land is ; which equates to .0004% of Maine's total land mass. This request is a small exemption for the sake of human safety.

We are working on this pro-actively instead of reactively; let's not wait to act until after there is loss of life. We must exempt our airports from the endangered species habitat law to prevent the risk of aircraft/animal collisions.

Please vote OTP on LD 138

Ann Fredericks
State Representative

District 143 Sanford (part)