



Russell Black
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture Conservation and Forestry on LD 6 "An Act to Allow Persons to Label Their Wild Animal Traps with Their Online Identification Number Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife"
Public Hearing: February 3, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, I am State Senator Russell Black and I am here today to introduce LD 6, "An Act to Allow Persons to Label Their Wild Animal Traps with Their Online Identification Number Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and to ask for your support.

I was asked by the Maine Trappers Association to submit this legislation after members of the association determined that in some circumstances, licensed trappers may feel more comfortable identifying their equipment with their MOSES ID number, rather than their name and address as required by current law.

The purpose of the current labeling requirement (name and address) is to ensure that Game Wardens and biologists can identify and locate the owners of trapping equipment. However, in some circumstances, individual trappers may not wish for their name and address to be identified to disgruntled members of the public. By allowing the MOSES ID of a trapper to be used when labeling traps DIFW is able to correctly identify the owner of the trap without disclosing personal information to the public at large.

Especially for youth, female, and new trappers, this added layer of privacy could add a simple layer of comfort and safety when complying with trap tag labeling requirements.

Lastly, I understand that the Department and the Maine Trappers Association have discussed this concept and that the Department is generally ok with this change in law. I trust that this committee and those two organizations can refine any language details that may need to be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.