

## **Testimony of the Maine Trappers Association in Support of 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**

**February 3, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Trappers Association in support of LD 6. We would like to extend our appreciation to Senator Black for sponsoring this legislation.

LD 6 is a very simple bill that seeks to enhance personal security and comfort for licensed trappers in Maine. Today, statute obligates trappers to identify their name and address on their trap tags for the purpose of allowing game wardens and biologists at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to easily identify the owner of the trap for enforcement and other purposes.

As trapping in Maine has once again become more popular, and the diversity of new trappers continues to expand, we believe that LD 6 allows for an added layer of personal security and piece of mind for those that choose to exercise the proposed option in this legislation.

As you will hear, some trappers would prefer not to identify their traps with their name and address publicly for a variety of reasons. However, we still support the requirement that obligates trappers to label their traps for purposes of enforcement. LD 6 is very simple in that it proposes to allow a trapper to label their trap with their name and address (as is currently required, OR, with their distinct MOSES ID number as issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (proposed)).

If a trapper chooses to label their traps with their MOSES ID number, personnel at the Department would still be able to look up who owns the trap, without their name and address or other personal information, being present on the trap for anyone in the public to obtain.

We appreciate the conversations that we have had with the Department as we bring this proposal forward, and believe that it is a simple and effective change that is meaningful for many Maine trappers.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide more information as requested.