

Blum, Alyster

From: John Glowa <JGLOWA@roadrunner.com>
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To: Blum, Alyster; Legislature: Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Subject: Written testimony in opposition to L.D. 27

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Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 27-An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing and Permitting Laws

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Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Regarding the proposed changes in Sections 1. and 6., these fly in the face of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Wildlife are a public resource, held in trust by the State of Maine for ALL of the people of Maine. They are not the property of the landowner of the land on which they live, and for this reason the landowner should have no special hunting or fishing privileges. Furthermore, the waters in which fish reside are waters of the state and not the property of the landowner. The landowner should be treated like anyone else. There is absolutely no need whatsoever to allow people to hunt or fish (in waters of the state) on their own land without a license. This bill is an excellent example of how the so-called "sportsman's" lobby ceaselessly chips away at laws for the purpose of increasing killing opportunities and decreasing accountability. Section 1 was originally intended to give the appearance that it had something to do with protecting agricultural crops. Even that veneer is being stripped away by this bill by amending it into a pro-hunting law. Finally, hunting and fishing license revenue is necessary for funding IFW. Anyone who can afford to buy or own a ten-acre parcel of land can certainly afford to buy a hunting or fishing license.

Regarding the proposed changes in Section 2, this is another example of a law being chipped away little by little by the “sportsman’s” lobby to provide more opportunities to kill the public’s wildlife. Maine’s moose slaughter is already a circus. This bill is wholly unnecessary and will simply put more traffic, noise and people in the woods, damaging the north woods experience for hunters and non-hunters alike.