



Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA)

205 Church Hill Road, Augusta, ME 04330

David Trahan, Executive Director

david@samofmaine.org

www.samila.org

February 12, 2025

Testimony In Opposition of LD 205, An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey, Before the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action.

The honorable Senator Baldacci, Rep. Roberts, members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is David Trahan, I am the Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action. I am testifying in opposition to LD 205, An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey.

This bill and idea has been before this committee in the past. It has been rejected, instead the department has broadly expanded the bag limits on Turkey, I know because our organization introduced legislation to achieve that goal and to address the issues raised in this bill. Working with the department, fall bag limits on Turkey have increased significantly. In addition, the department has expanded programs to assist landowners and farmers when dealing with nuisance wildlife.

As hunters, we are just one of several tools used to sustainably manage all wildlife, and we do so under the direction and guidance of professional wildlife biologists. One of the goals is to achieve healthy and sustainable wildlife populations for all to enjoy. Another goal is to reduce human conflicts and protect private property. In this case, it appears this bill is not about the sustainable management of turkey populations, instead, it is about reducing conflicts with farmers. Although we are sympathetic, we already have programs and tools to achieve this goal and we believe they should be used on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you,

David Trahan, Executive Director, SAM-ILA