



Maine Professional Guides Association

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Testimony in Support of LD 77

An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by
Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund

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 Professional Guides Association in support of LD 77.

While we acknowledge that fee, license, and tax increases are never a favorable option, MPGA also represents hundreds of fishing guides that rely on our fisheries resources to make a living and provide quality outdoor experiences to residents and visitors alike.

We recognize that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been conservative in their approach to any fishing license increases for almost 15 years, and that the cost of Maine's fishing license will still be among the most affordable in the country even with this increase.

For context, even with this increase, a combination resident hunting and fishing license at \$50 is the equivalent of about \$0.14 per day annually, and can be used 365 days per year. If someone were to buy a golf or ski membership for \$1,000, that cost is roughly \$2.73 per day, and obviously can only be used for a finite period of time here in Maine. At fourteen cents per day, our license is a tremendous value.

Unfortunately, we know firsthand how the cost of doing business has risen dramatically in those 15 years, and for that reason we believe that the Legislature should support this proposed increase and allow the Department to cover what we see as relatively fundamental expenditures to maintain quality fisheries here in Maine.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions, or follow up with more information as requested.