



Bruce Bickford  
Senator, District 20

THE MAINE SENATE  
132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**In Support of L.D. 80, "An Act to Designate the Seppala Siberian Sleddog as the Maine State Dog"**  
**Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Senator Bruce Bickford and I am here to testify in support of L.D. 80, "An Act to Designate the Seppala Siberian Sleddog as the Maine State Dog."

Over 100 years ago in the heat of battle during WWI the British soldiers heard the German troops singing Christmas carols. They quickly had a short truce and gather together from both sides to give gifts, help bury the dead, sing, and dance. When the truce ended both sides went back to their fox holes, dug in, and began fighting once again. This happened a few times during WWI. I'll get to the reason for this story in a minute.

Let me point out what we currently recognize in our state:

State Tree: White Pine  
State Flower: White Pine Cone  
State Gemstone: Tourmaline  
State Herb: Wintergreen  
State Animal: Moose  
State Ballad: The Ballad of Maine 120<sup>th</sup>  
State Berry: Blueberry  
State Bird: Chickadee  
State Butterfly: Pink Edge Sulphur  
State Cat: Coon  
State Dessert: Blueberry Pie  
State Fish: Landlocked Salmon  
State Fossil: Pertica Quadrifaria  
State Insect: Honey Bee  
State Soil: Chesuncook  
State Song of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: My Sweet Maine  
State Treat; Whoopie Pie  
State Sweetener: Maple Syrup  
State Sailing Vessel: Bowdoin

Why no State Dog? Just like the story of the soldiers in WWI, wouldn't it be great to come together for a brief respite and listen to the stories of this amazing dog named Togo? He saved a village and became quite a sensation! I think you for your time and in this case of civil discourse let me say "it takes a village" or in this case a descendant of Togo right here in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.