



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

March 3, 2025 - Testimony in support of LD 439:

An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's Youth to Hunt on Sunday

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, and I serve as the House Republican Leader. I represent House District 12, which includes the towns of Franklin, Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sorrento, Sullivan, Winter Harbor, and Steuben.

I am here today to express my strong support ***for LD 439 - An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's Youth to Hunt on Sundays.*** Hunting has always been a meaningful tradition in my family, but more importantly, it provides an opportunity to teach responsibility, patience, and respect for nature to the next generation.

For the past five years, I have had the incredible privilege of participating in Youth Hunting Day with my son, Carter. It is, without a doubt, my favorite day of the year. The excitement, the preparation, and—most importantly—the time spent together outdoors are priceless. Over the last three years, Carter has successfully harvested a deer, helping to put meat in the freezer for our family. I can't even begin to describe the overwhelming joy of witnessing his pride and excitement—knowing that he has worked hard and accomplished something meaningful.

That's why we were thrilled when Maine expanded Youth Hunting Day into Youth Hunting Weekend, giving young hunters an extra day to participate. This past season, Carter was fortunate to harvest his deer on Friday, and everything went as planned. However, this experience also showed me firsthand why Sunday hunting is so crucial for youth.

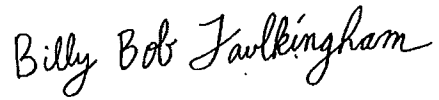
Carter's best friend, Carleton, is 15 years old and had never been hunting before. He was eager to learn, so we took him to the shooting range, where he quickly picked up the skills he needed. I planned to take Carter hunting on Friday and then take Carleton out on Saturday so he could have his chance. Unfortunately, despite spending the entire day in the blind, no deer came within range.

The problem is that Carleton's only available hunting day was Saturday, due to school and other commitments. Once basketball season started, even those Saturdays became scarce. As a result, he missed his opportunity to harvest his first deer.

This is why allowing youth to hunt on Sundays is so critical. Many kids, especially those involved in school sports and other extracurricular activities, have extremely limited opportunities to participate in hunting. By adding Sundays to the hunting season, we would be giving them one more chance to learn, experience, and succeed in an activity that teaches responsibility, conservation, and strengthens family bonds.

I urge you to support this bill for the sake of youth hunters like Carleton and so many others who would benefit from this extra day in the field. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Bob Faulkingham". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham
House Republican Leader