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Testimony of Rep. Tiffany Roberts presenting

LD 751, An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and Open Training Seasons

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci and colleagues on the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. As you know, I am Representative Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 149 which includes parts of North and South Berwick.

I am honored to present **LD 751, An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and Open Training Seasons**. This bill addresses a time-sensitive matter concerning the training of dogs for bear hunting in specific regions of our state.

In 2023, the Legislature enacted a law allowing residents to train up to six dogs at any one time on bear in portions of Washington and Hancock counties situated south of Route 9. This training period extends from July 1st to the fourth day preceding the open of bear hunting season, with the requirement that permission is obtained to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production. This provision is set to be repealed on May 1, 2025.

The primary objective of LD 751 is to prevent this scheduled repeal. By doing so, we aim to:

- Maintain effective bear management
- Support Maine's strong hunting traditions
- Address landowner concerns

LD 751 reaffirms our commitment to effective wildlife management and the continuation of Maine's hunting traditions. I urge the committee to support this bill to ensure that the provisions allowing for the training of dogs for bear hunting remain in effect beyond the current repeal date.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.