

March 17, 2025

My name is Keith Thompson, I grew up in west Pittsfield, Maine. I've lived in Morrill since 1975. I am 69 years old and have been hunting since I was 10. I'm also a trapper and brooktrout fisherman. I have been a woodcutter since 1981. Before that I worked in the woods weekends and school vacations. So I've spent a lot of time in the woods. I've seen the changes in the deer herd and small game as the coyotes gained a foothold in Maine. *I'm a maine guide + SAM member*

I oppose LD 866 because since IFW began issuing bonus antlerless permits and selling multiple antlerless permits I have seen a dramatic decline in the deer herd. It's not just female deer that's being killed. Button bucks and little spike bucks never pass on their genes. That's the backbone of the deer herd. We are not encouraging the young hunters to be selective, to be responsible for conservation of the deer herd.

I urge the committee to support good hunting practices with an awareness of managing the deer herd in a way that will ensure it to thrive.

A farmer doesn't kill off his breeding stock; Maine hunters need to be conscious of their deer herd for a responsible, long term positive outcome.

