

TESTIMONY of Greg Lounder
IN SUPPORT OF
LD 962 "An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the
Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet"
March 31, 2025
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Maine State House Room 436

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Greg Lounder and I reside in Otis, Maine. I am here today to speak in support of LD 926.

First and foremost, passage of this bill is necessary to address a deficiency in Maine law. At present, a person operating a motor vehicle under the influence which results in the death of a family pet would face no criminal justice for causing the family pet's death. Those who cause death to a family pet and serious harm to its owner(s) and family face no direct legal consequence.

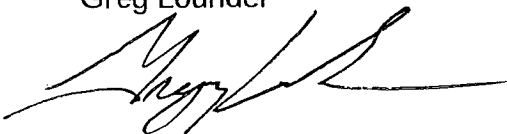
Section 2 of this bill seeks to address the deficiency in Maine law by setting forth penalties including a range of fines, a period of incarceration, suspension of driving privileges, and community service obligations. Restitution is set forth to require payment of incurred veterinary costs, the market value of the pet, and a payment to compensate for emotional distress.

Most reasonable persons would agree that a number of penalty and restitution provisions need to be added to Maine law to ensure that criminal justice is served in the future. Naturally, the nature and extent of these provisions will vary among reasonable persons in accordance with their experiences and expertise.

Some may view an amendment to remove a provision (to avoid the need to address fiscal impact on the state budget) as a positive movement toward passage of this bill. Others may see it differently. It is my humble hope that all with an interest in this bill find ways to effectively work it to reach a final form that speaks to the good spirit and good faith that its supporters intend.

In closing, I urge the Committee to vote out LD 962 with a recommendation of "Ought to Pass"

Thank You
Greg Lounder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Lounder', with a stylized, flowing script.