



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 988, "An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property"
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
April 10, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Senator Jeff Timberlake, and I represent Senate District 17. I'm here today to introduce LD 988, "An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property," which would allow for hunting on certain areas of University of Maine System land, with the exception of residential areas and campus zones.

Currently, the blanket restriction on hunting and weapons across University of Maine properties unintentionally limits wildlife management practices that are important for the health of these lands. As we all know, overpopulation of deer and other wildlife can lead to a number of problems, like the spread of disease, an increase in ticks, and damage to the surrounding environment. Left unmanaged, these issues can quickly escalate, causing harm to our ecosystems.

I want to be clear, the intent here isn't to challenge the broader policies around weapons on campus, which are based on ensuring public safety. However, it's important to acknowledge that these lands can suffer from the same ecological challenges that private lands face; and they require the correct management. By allowing hunting on certain University of Maine System properties, we can help control wildlife populations and prevent the negative effects that come with overpopulation, all while keeping safety at the forefront.

This bill would specifically allow hunting on non-residential areas of University of Maine System property, keeping it far from places where students and faculty are. It's a practical way to balance the need for wildlife management with the safety and well-being of students and faculty.

Supporting this bill would not only help preserve the health of Maine's ecosystems, but also offer more opportunities for hunting, which is a key part of our outdoor traditions here in Maine. I ask for your support in moving this bill forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.