



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, Distinguished Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

My name is Will Tuell. I represent House District 10, which includes 20 small communities in central and coastal Washington County, and I am here today to present LD 1692.

Prior to cloture, I received a call from a former member, the Honorable MaryAnne Kinney of Knox who has been a strong advocate for farmers and landowners before, during, and since her eight years of service here in Augusta.

What Rep. Kinney brought to me was a simple, targeted bill asking the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to issue one – and only one – any-deer permit to a landowner who “qualifies to hunt without a license on certain land”. I believe, and Rep. Kinney can certainly speak to her circumstances in particular, that this is limited to the parcel where that landowner lives. I believe this also only comes into play for agricultural landowners as well and would help farmers have a degree of latitude in managing deer populations on their property.

This bill is not an attempt to not have to pay for any any-deer permits, simply the first one. After that, the landowner pays for whatever additional permits the department makes available to them.

Given that there are several controlling factors – landowners are only allowed to hunt specific land, and must qualify under existing law – I believe passing this bill would not be a major ask of the Department or jeopardize the state’s deer population.

It also must be noted that the state issues tens of thousands of any deer permits which go unclaimed every year and are resold on a zone by zone basis. Even then, the state can not sell all of its any deer permits. If that is the case, why not let a limited number of folks who live on and work their land, have ONE permit annually free of charge?

I thank you for the opportunity to present here today, and would ask that if you have any questions, they be deferred to Rep. Kinney, who served three terms on the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry committee during her eight year tenure here. She has a reputation as being a thorough, hard working legislator who does their research and legwork, and will gladly fill in any blanks you have.

I thank you again!

William Tuell
State Representative

District 10 Alexander, Charlotte, Cooper, Crawford, Cutler, Dennysville, East Machias, Lubec, Machiasport, Marshfield, Northfield, Pembroke, Princeton, Wesley and Whiting, the unorganized territories of; Berry Township, Big Lake Township, Cathance Township, East Central Washington, Edmunds Township, Greenlaw Chopping Township, Marion Township, North Washington (Part) and Trescott Township