

Written Statement Submitted for the Record by
Tyler Philbrick, Bald Mountain Camps
In support of Clarifying Amendment to L.D. 2054:
An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding
Moose Hunting Permits for Hunting Outfitters

1:00 pm, January 21, 2026,
Before the Members of the Joint Standing Committee:
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, my name is Tyler Philbrick, and I am part of the third-generation family owners of The Bald Mountain Camps. Organized in 1897 as a sporting camp, the Camps are truly an historic landmark in the Rangeley area. We carry on the sporting camp tradition today, adding modern conveniences.

I support the Amendment clarifying the law so the Department can confirm all applicants are eligible for the lottery. Motels, private camps, and others applying just to get in the lodge tag lottery should be ineligible.

On the application for the lottery, a lodge is asked to rank the order of WMD preference for a tag. If the lodge ends up getting a less desirable WMD, the option to swap with a general lottery winner should be preserved. This does not negatively impact wildlife management, and the Department already has procedures in place to handle these requests.

To maximize the economic benefits of this program and to give clients a positive experience, hunting outfitters must be authorized to work together with a minimum of paperwork. Some outfitters may be better at finding hunters and/or guiding clients. Working together allows for maximizing the revenues and better serving clients to present a World-Class hunt.

The three-year waiting period on general lottery tags was passed years ago to help improve the odds for those entering the general lottery. This isn't necessary with lodge tags since they are not part of the general lottery. Eliminating this will also reduce work for the Department. Also, medical deferrals should be allowed just like they are permitted with all other moose permits.

The lodge tag program provides a strong economic boost for lodges in Western Maine. It helps bring in money early in the year and provides funding to modernize and compete with the many AirBNB's now finding their way into the North Woods.

Thank you.