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Testimony in support of LD 2054

An act to clarify the laws regarding moose hunting permits for hunting outfitters.

Scott Soucy

Owner / Operator of Homestead Lodge

Thank you for listening to my testimony today in support of LD 2054

My name is Scott Soucy I own and operate Homestead lodge in Oxbow Maine. We are a family run year-round lodge and outfitter business. We are located in WMD 5

It is my understanding that when the lodge tag program was implemented it was to help the lodges in northern Maine that were struggling with loss of clientele due to the diminishing deer herd. Although I believe the program started out with great intent, we are now seeing some unintended negative consequences.

In 2025 I was one of the few true year-round sporting lodges that did not receive a lodge tag. This was a very large financial hit for our small business. Not only did I not receive a tag but the way the lodge tags are allocated there is also very few if any nonresident tags given out in the regular moose lottery, therefore diminishing the amount of nonresident hunters looking for guides and outfitters in the northern zones leading to another financial hit, due to the fact that the majority of Maine residents will not spend the same money to hire an outfitter as a nonresident.

My concern is the way the tags have been handled after being allocated, as well as the requirements put in place to receive a tag are not being utilized. There are a lot of tags being given to outfitters that qualify by having a commercial kitchen, but that outfitter then applies for a zone far away from their lodge and operates from a wall tent set up. Common sense says what is the point of meeting these qualifications if you're not operating the hunt from the location being inspected.

It is my opinion that the Lodge tag should be allocated to lodges that qualify and the hunt should take place in the zone where the lodge is located. This would also help with the lack of nonresident moose tags being allocated during the regular moose weeks as well.

It is also my opinion that a tag should not be transferable in any way once initially allocated to an outfitter. They should be sold directly to a hunter that must stay at that lodge and hunt that zone by a guide hired by that outfitter.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to have separate conversations or help with any committees related to this matter.