

Testimony neither for or against LD 2054

An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Moose Hunting Permits for Hunting Outfitters

Brandon Lane

Owner, Allagash Guide Service

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today neither for or against LD 2054.

My name is Brandon Lane, and I own Allagash Guide Service, a year-round guiding business located on the border of Wildlife Management Districts 1 and 2, where the majority of our guiding activity takes place. When the lodge tag program was first introduced, I was optimistic about the opportunity it would provide for my business and for rural communities like ours. Unfortunately, I was unaware of the unintended consequences that would follow in the years ahead.

Since the program's introduction approximately five years ago, we have experienced a significant decline in the number of non-resident lottery winners contacting our business. This decline is directly tied to the reduced availability of non-resident permits. Non-resident hunters have historically made up a substantial portion of our clientele, and the loss of those hunters has had a measurable negative impact on our annual income and local economic activity.

I support meaningful reforms to this program so it can better serve guides, sportsmen, and rural communities by returning to its original intent—supporting lodges in specific areas of the state that were financially harmed by the loss of deer hunting opportunities, not creating a system that concentrates permits among a small number of operators.

Specifically, I support changes that include:

- **A 50% cap per week per WMD between lodge tags and non-resident tags**
- **No trading of lodge tags**
- **Adjacency requirements for lodge permits**
- **No selling of sub-permittee spots**
- **Only one lodge permit per lodge, with remaining permits returned to the non-resident lottery**
- **Two percent of lodge tags drawn only from bull permits, excluding cow permits from the lodge tag allocation**

As many of you are aware, the current program has been exploited to its maximum extent. This year, the Maine Warden Service issued a letter to all lodges regarding enforcement actions related to this program. In my view, the existing statute contains too many gray areas, allowing

some operators to obtain multiple permits through purchasing, trading, and other practices that were never intended when the program was created.

Another major issue is the way permits are allocated. Currently, approximately 8% of permits are designated for non-residents and 2% for lodges. While this allocation is supposed to be split between bull and cow permits, lodges are awarded bull permits only and receive zero cow permits. Despite this, cow permits are still included in the total allocation used to calculate lodge tags. This has resulted in a distorted and unequal distribution that disproportionately inflates lodge permits relative to non-resident permits.

In 2025, there were **2,645 bull permits available** across the September and October seasons. Of those, **178 bull permits** were issued to non-residents through the regular lottery, while **82 bull permits** were issued as lodge permits. This results in only **6.73% of bull permits going to non-residents** and **3.1% of bull permits issued to lodges**.

This is a valuable program, but it should not continue to be influenced by those seeking to monopolize lodge tags for the benefit of a small few. LD 2054 is a necessary step toward restoring fairness, transparency, and the original purpose of the lodge permit system.

I am happy to assist the Committee in any way and answer questions, as I am very familiar with the practical workings and real-world impacts of this program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Appendix A

2025 Moose Permit Allocation by Wildlife Management District and Season

Submitted by:
Brandon Lane
Allagash Guide Service

September Bull Season – 2025

WMD	Non-Res	Lodge	Total Permits
1	7	15	225
2	15	2	175
3	1	9	100
4	7	13	200
5	0	12	125
6	1	9	100
7 / 13	0	0	0
8	0	0	0
9	0	0	0
10	0	3	30
11	0	2	25
12 / 15	0	0	0
14 / 17	0	0	0
18	1	1	20
19	0	3	30
27 / 28	0	2	20

Totals:

- **Non-Resident:** 32 (3.04%)
 - **Lodge:** 71 (6.76%)
 - **All Permits:** 1,050 (9.81%)
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October Bull Season – 2025

WMD	Non-Res	Lodge	Total Permits
1	22	0	225
2	17	0	175
3	9	1	100
4	20	0	200
5	12	0	125
6	10	0	100
7 / 13	9	5	140
8	17	3	200
9	12	0	125
10	3	0	30
11	1	1	25
12 / 15	4	0	40
14 / 17	3	1	40
18	2	0	20
19	3	0	30
27 / 28	2	0	20

Totals:

- **Non-Resident:** 146 (9.15%)
- **Lodge:** 11 (0.68%)
- **All Permits:** 1,595 (9.83%)

Antlerless (Cow) Permits – 2025

WMD	Non-Res	Lodge	Total Permits
1	17	0	175
2	17	0	175
3	12	0	125
4	10	0	100
5	12	0	125
6	6	0	60
7 / 13	0	0	0
8	15	0	150
9	0	0	0
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	0
12 / 15	0	0	0
14 / 17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
19	0	0	0
27 / 28	0	0	0

Totals:

- **Non-Resident:** 89 (9.78%)
- **Lodge:** 0 (0%)
- **All Permits:** 910 (9.78%)

Appendix B

2025 Lodge-Issued Bull Moose Permits by Operator, Season, and WMD

Submitted by:
Brandon Lane
Allagash Guide Service

Lodge / Guide Service	Season / Week	Permit WMD	Physical WMD (Lodge Location)	Permit Type
3 Rivers Guide Service	Sept	4	11	Bull
Allagash Guide Service	Sept	1	2	Bull
Allagash Headwaters	Sept	5	5	Bull
Allagash Wilderness	Sept	1	2	Bull
Bald Mountain Camps	Oct 1	7	7	Bull
Benedicta Lodge	Oct 1	3	11	Bull
Boggy Brook Outfitters	Sept	6	26	Bull
Bosebuck Mountain Club	Oct 1	7	7	Bull
Boulet Sporting Camp	Sept	3	4	Bull
Bradford Camps	Sept	5	5	Bull
Breezy Acres Motel	Sept	1	17	Bull
Buckhorn Camps	Sept	5	9	Bull
Bulldog Camps & Lodge	Sept	4	8	Bull
Cedar Mill Farm Cabins	Sept	3	17	Bull
Cedar Ridge Outfitters	Sept	1	8	Bull
Chets Camps	Sept	19	19	Bull

Cowgers Lakefront	Sept	1	11	Bull
Cozy Cove Cabins	Oct 1	8	8	Bull
Crooked Tree Lodge	Sept	2	2	Bull
Eagle Lake Inn	Sept	3	3	Bull
Eagle Lodge & Camps	Oct 1	11	18	Bull
Fifteen Mile Stream	Oct 1	8	8	Bull
First Settlers Lodge	Sept	1	11	Bull
Fish River Lodge	Sept	3	3	Bull
Flying Eagle Lodge	Sept	19	19	Bull
Grand Lake Hunt	Sept	10	11	Bull
Grand Lake Lodge	Sept	19	19	Bull
Grants Kennebago Camps	Oct 1	7	7	Bull
Greenland Cove Cabin	Sept	1	11	Bull
Grove Hill Outfitters	Sept	10	10	Bull
Hat Point Adventures	Sept	27	28	Bull
Hewes Brook Lodge	Sept	3	2	Bull
J S Guide Service	Sept	3	22	Bull
Katahdin Lodge	Sept	10	5	Bull
Katahdin's Shadow Lodge	Sept	6	11	Bull
Kelly Camps & Lodge	Sept	1	1	Bull
King Bartlett Camps	Sept	6	8	Bull
Kingsbury Lodge	Sept	1	22	Bull
Lake Parlin Lodge	Oct 1	8	8	Bull
Lakewood Camps	Oct 1	7	7	Bull

Legends Fall Guide Service	Sept	2	Unknown	Bull
Lento Sporting Camps	Sept	6	6	Bull
Libbys Sporting Camp	Sept	5	5	Bull
Long Lake Camps	Sept	11	19	Bull
Lugdons Lodge	Sept	3	3	Bull
Macannamac Camps	Sept	5	5	Bull
Maine Moose Hunters	Sept	6	13	Bull
Maine River Lodge	Sept	11	11	Bull
Maine-Ly Moose Camps	Sept	5	18	Bull
Matagamon Wilderness	Sept	5	5	Bull
Merchant Camps & Lodge	Sept	5	5	Bull
Moose Maine Kids	Sept	6	21	Bull
Moose River Lodge	Sept	4	8	Bull
Mountain View Sporting	Sept	3	8	Bull
Moxe Gore Guide Service	Oct 1	14	14	Bull
Mt. Chase Lodge	Sept	1	11	Bull
Nesowadnehunk Lake	Sept	4	5	Bull
North Country Lodge	Sept	5	5	Bull
Northeast Wilderness	Oct 1	7	Unknown	Bull
Northern Hideaway	Sept	1	1	Bull
Northern Pride Lodge	Sept	4	9	Bull
Nugents Camps	Sept	4	4	Bull

Patten Hunting Lodge	Sept	5	5	Bull
PB Guide Service	Sept	4	5	Bull
Penobscot Lake Lodge	Sept	4	8	Bull
Pleasant River Guide Service	Sept	4	14	Bull
Pond Brook Cabins	Sept	3	3	Bull
Rideout's Lodge	Sept	1	11	Bull
Ross Lake Camps	Sept	4	4	Bull
Rustic Retreat Lodge	Sept	6	3	Bull
South Branch Lake	Sept	18	18	Bull
Spencer Pond Camps	Sept	4	9	Bull
Sunrise Ridge Guide Service	Sept	4	14	Bull
Tim Pond Wilderness	Sept	1	7	Bull
True North Camps	Sept	1	1	Bull
Turnpike Ridge	Sept	5	6	Bull
Umcolcus Sporting Camps	Sept	5	5	Bull
Weeks Leens Lodge	Sept	27	19	Bull
Whispering Pines Motel	Sept	1	16	Bull
Whisperwood Lodge	Sept	4	16	Bull
Wilderness Escape	Sept	6	11	Bull
Wilds of Maine Lodge	Sept	6	11	Bull