

February 5th, 2022

RE: LD 736, An Act to Enhance the Ecological Reserve System

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Jessica Martin, I am a resident of Rangeley, and I am writing to you in support of LD 736.

I have hunted and fished in Maine since an early age, having learned from my father who passed on his knowledge and enthusiasm for the Maine woods. The deer, grouse, and moose that I hunt are most common in younger managed areas than the older forests. I generally access these areas with a four-wheel drive truck or motorboat. However, once I've arrived at my access point I leave the road behind. While I often hunt areas that are managed for timber, having a place to track deer deep in an unmanaged wild forest or fish for trout in a remote stream and away from the roadside crowds is a rare opportunity that only ecological reserves can provide.

LD 736 would make modest changes to the area of ecological reserves possible on public lands by allowing the area to grow as more land is acquired by BPL. However, the maximum area that would be allowed in reserves (8% of operable timberlands) and the requirement that designating reserves not result in a deduction in sustainable harvest levels will ensure that BPL land is managed for a diversity of wildlife habitats along with hunting and fishing opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jessica Martin  
Rangeley, Maine