

Cynthia Simon  
GORHAM  
LD 1823

PLEASE, vote NO-NO-NO on LD 1823, “An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food”.

Opposing L.D. 1823 is critical because it disregards and voids many other respectable Maine traditions and rights.

- It voids the silent Sunday tradition of SAFELY hiking and recreating in Maine public lands without the constant threat of gunfire that I often encounter on the other six days per week.
- It disregards critical protections to our dwindling wildlife imperative to healthy, balanced ecosystems. Maine wildlife is NOT made up of bear, deer and moose, but a wide array of diverse animals that need to live in sync.
- It disrespects landowners who already deal with much trespassing unless there are tons and tons of signs on private property.
- It fails to address poaching.
- Importantly, it disrespects the authority of the legislature and agencies that created these statutes to assure these vital protections.
- It fails to address Maine's future in the face of climate change and the need to be flexible to our changing climate and resultant continuation and exasperation of ecosystem disease. Invasives and disease are growing threats to Maine's wildlife and this is counter to solving this and related issues.
- The special interest of this bill is glaring. Already Maine has shameful, unethical and embarrassing coyote hunting practices, bear baiting, beaver trapping, and lead fishing that are archaic, toxic and unscientific.
- Maine must use peer-reviewed science, not hunting lobbies, as justification for Maine hunting practices, as the only way to move forward in our cherished ecosystem health and viability.