

Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA)

126 Western Avenue, Box 153 * Augusta, Maine 04330 * 207-888-3931

Testimony in Support of LD 142

An Act To Give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Rule-making Authority To Establish a Bear Season Framework and Bag Limits to The Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW)

February 8, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW), my name is Harvey Calden and I am the President of the Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA) and I also operate the Tim Pond Camps. The MSCA represents over 50 sporting lodges from the Rangeley Lakes Region to Lubec and from Belgrade to Allagash.

The MSCA supports L.D. 142 for the following reasons:

1. The Act would allow the Commissioner to manage the harvest limit for bear in accordance with the science-based recommendations of the big game working group. During the last decade hunters have failed to meet harvest objectives under current law.
2. The Act would also allow the season for bear hunting over bait to start one week earlier. The change is an important tool to attract young people to the hunting tradition by offering a hunt during the summer vacation.

In conclusion, MSCA suggests the daily bag limit of one bear be eliminated from the Bill. An annual harvest limit simplifies the law and thus eases compliance and enforcement. Further, MSCA suggests the law plainly state that the annual harvest limit is two bears taken by any legal method including trapping.

Thank you.

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*The Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA) was founded in 1987 by a group of camp owners to preserve the sporting camp's uniqueness in the State of Maine. By working closely with other groups and exchanging ideas and information, the members of MSCA continue the tradition of providing high quality recreational experiences to individuals and their families, a quality experience that visitors will remember long after they return home. The MSCA is a 501C (6) non-profit organization that is led by a board of directors. **Maine Sporting Camp Association** 126 Western Avenue, Box 153, Augusta, Maine 04330, Phone: (207) 888-3931 Email: info@mainesportingcamps.com; Website: www.mainesportingcamps.com*