

**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**

**February 8, 2021**

Senator Dill, Representative Landry and Members of the Committee:

The Maine Trappers Association urges your support on LD 142.

We appreciated the work that went into this legislation last session before the Legislature was forced to adjourn because of the pandemic. Many stakeholders had input into this legislation.

In particular, we support giving the Commissioner rule-making authority on the hunting and trapping bear bag limit. We believe that this better aligns with how the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife develops bag limits according to scientific management plans for other species and continues to allow for important public input.

We also appreciate the opportunity we had last session to work with this committee and the Department regarding the new bear trapping education course requirements in this legislation. We believe that this new requirement is fair for veteran bear trappers, and creates a good opportunity for new bear trappers to learn about best management practices from experts.

Lastly, we support the reduction in cost of a resident bear permit from \$27 to \$10. As we continue to try and recruit new bear hunters and trappers, reducing costs also reduces a barrier to entry and participation of these pursuits and we believe that is important.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

James Cote  
Maine Trappers Association