Mary Jane Whitney Bar Harbor

I am against extending the length of bear hunting season in Maine. We already have bear hunting for 3 months a year, and that is more than enough. What needs to be focused on is making it illegal to do bear baiting in the state of Maine. Bear baiting is shown to increase bear reproduction and this causes the population to increase. In addition, the use of bait acclimates bears to look for human food instead of natural foraging, and this leads to an increase in human- bear conflict.

I suggest that you study how giving bears human food effects their behavior, impacts reproduction and contributes to over-population. Secondly, there should be proactive educational programs implemented by the state that teach communities how to coexist peacefully with bears by taking common sense measures that prevent human / bear conflict.