



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony in Support of LD 309
An Act To Require a Nonresident To Hire a Licensed Maine Guide
To Hunt Big Game

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
February 22, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, my name is Troy Jackson and I represent the people of northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1. I am here today to present LD 309 "An Act To Require a Nonresident To Hire a Licensed Maine Guide To Hunt Big Game."

The role of a guide has a rich tradition going back many decades and serving native Mainers and visitors alike who are looking to explore the natural outdoor recreation we have to offer. In 1897, following a law change requiring that guides be registered with the state, Cornelia Thurza Crosby, or "Fly Rod" became the first registered guide in Maine history. She had a regular column published in newspapers around the country and became a role model to young women to young women everywhere.¹

According to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, there are currently 6,300 Mainers registered as guides in our state.² Guides are licensed in several specifications, including hunting, fishing, recreational (may guide boating, snowmobiling and camping activities), sea-kayaking, and tide-water fishing. The bill before you is based on the concept of reciprocity for hunting guides. It says that if you are a non-resident hunting in our state, you must be accompanied by a Maine guide if you are from a state or province that also requires guides to accompany non-residents.

The state of Maine — referred to by many as vacationland — is known throughout the country as a destination for people looking to enjoy the recreation and natural beauty we

¹ web.archive.org/web/20110210145110/http://tilburyhouse.com/maine-and-new-england/fly-rod-crosby.htm

² www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/registered-maine-guides/index.html#:~:text=There%20are%20currently%20approximately%206%2C300%20licensed%20guides%20in%20Maine.

have to offer. This simple and straightforward bill recognizes the skills and rich history our guides bring to the unique Maine experience. It's an attempt to put our talented guides on a level playing field with guides in other states and provinces of Canada.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
President of the Maine Senate
Senate District 1