



**BACKCOUNTRY**  
**HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NEW ENGLAND

February 20, 2021

Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: **LD 309**: An Act to Require a Nonresident To Hire a Licensed Maine Guide to Hunt Big Game

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) is the fastest growing hunting and angling group in North America. BHA seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting by supporting land conservation, public access to hunting and fishing areas, and sound management of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

On behalf of BHA's members in Maine we urge you to reject LD 309. We value the public trust system of management of fish and game species as a resource for all. Maine's abundant hunting opportunities draw thousands of nonresident hunters each year, bolstering local economies and providing much-needed funding for conservation and wildlife management. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, includes the tenant that **Democracy of Hunting is Standard**. We believe that all sportsmen and women, regardless of financial means, should enjoy the same opportunities to hunt in Maine.

Many members of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers make do-it-yourself trips to Maine and elsewhere across North America. Cases where non-residents are required to hire guides for are limited to hunting in Federal Wilderness area in Wyoming; hunting for brown/grizzly bear, Dall sheep, and mountain goat in Alaska, and hunting big game in some Canadian Provinces. However but we do not think that should be a reason to adopt these standards for Maine.

Sincerely,

*John C Simoneau*

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