

Testimony for LD 433
Dave Kelso
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Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry and other distinguished members of the Committee.

My name is Dave Kelso. I am here to speak in favor of LD 433, "An act to allow moose permit winners to sell their sub-permittee slot". This was submitted by Legislative Representative John Andrew at my request.

First a little history: I have been involved in the moose hunt since the very first modern hunt in 1980. Back in the day it was legal to sell your sub-permittee slot. During the late 80's into the 90's we would get \$1500 to \$2500 for the permit. Brokering the deal for the permit winner, he had to be on the hunt (by law), the buyer paid for the expenses of the hunt and the permit winner would get half the moose meat. The buyer paid for everything. A Maine resident got to go on a moose hunt, get some meat, and make some money at the same time. A win for all.

In the mid to late 90's, we got word of a very large out-of-state outfitting service that was looking to close in on this deal here in Maine. Their client list read like a Fortune 500 list. I was familiar with them as they were taking over the Kansas deer hunts, which I was guiding for at the time for another outfitter. To be honest, we could not get that loophole closed fast enough, because I was seeing what they were doing in Kansas. They would have taken over the Maine moose hunt.

Not that long ago, the rules were changed again to allow the winner of a permit to change or add a sub-permittee up to 30 days before the hunt. I saw where this was going. People were again selling the sub-slots on the "Black Market". When I drew my second permit four years ago, I was besieged with letters from outfitters from Maine telling me my permit was worth money to me. They could not broker the deal but would be happy to give me names and phone numbers of people to call to broker my own deal. One letter I wished I had saved, had one line in it I had to laugh at, "Hunting Maine moose is a once in a lifetime experience for most hunters. If you have previously been successful don't be selfish, give someone else a chance".

Currently we have a select few guides that are allowed to sell permits through a drawing process. These hunts sell for \$9,000 to \$20,000. It does not seem very fair to me, that you allow a select few "haves" to profit from this when the average Mainer could use some money as well.

The permits are still being sold on the "Black Market". Just remove the stipulation of not being able to sell it, bring it above board, and tack on some rules in the work session so the Department makes some money as well.

I would like to thank the committee for your time in hearing this proposed bill. I hope if this makes it to a work session I can be included.

Again, thank you all for your time.

Dave Kelso