

Darcie Calden
Tim Pond Camps

My name is Darcie Calden, we own and operate Tim Pond Camps in Eustis.

We are in opposition of LD 544 "An act to abolish the moose permits for hunting lodges"

This is more than a moose tag, it is bringing tourism dollars to more than just one particular lodge or guide it is bringing money to the State of Maine and giving people more employment.

In our first season of receiving a tag our hunter visited our Camp twice the summer prior to the hunt for preseason scouting, he stayed a week each time, brought someone with him each time, and hired a guide each time. Then he came the week prior to his hunt, brought someone with him, and hired a guide for that extra week... so our guide got 4 weeks of work and we were able to keep 2 extra employees on for 2 extra weeks.

Our hunter also spent over \$2,000 locally at a sporting goods store, had his meat processed and mount done here in Maine.

For those that feel this is unfair we don't see it that way.

It is not taking away tags from hunters who have been putting in for permits its only taking 2% of nonresident tags and allowing them to purchase them to hunt in Maine instead of Alaska or the Yukon. If a Lodge is drawn they sell the permit, pay employees (who then spend their money), a guide gets paid, and a hunter spends money in Maine (food, gas, supplies). we see this as a win for the State of Maine, which has had a struggling economy the last 2 years.

Thank you for your time.

Darcie Calden