

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and other distinguished members of the Committee.

I am the co-owner of Bull Moose Wilderness Adventures in Carroll Plantation. I am writing in Opposition to LD544 and the elimination of lodge tags.

The economic value of the lodge tags issued to my lodge have had impact up and down the coast, but primarily in the area of our lodge. We have made the investment to be included in this lottery and to provide a safe and professional atmosphere for our clients. We have spent thousands on meeting this compliance. We have also invested thousands on upgrades and maintenance to ensure we provide an outstanding service. These investments have spread the wealth across our very small community in Northern Maine in an area that is deeply depressed. Every bit of tourism we can promote and bring to the area is a step in the right direction.

Here is a partial list of LOCAL businesses and LOCAL people who have received direct benefit from the customers we have brought to the area with these permits:

- Smith's General Store
- Mallet's Mill
- Hubert Aldrich
- Tibbets Hardware
- Raymond's Market
- SW Collins
- The Timber House Restaurant
- A Place to Eat
- FA Peabody
- Kyle Connolly
- Dimillo's
- 95 Diner
- Stuart Crosby – Lobster Dealer
- Atlantic Shellfish
- Ralph Larivierre
- The Boys Custom Meat Cutting
- Homestead Lodge Taxidermy
- Stewman's Restaurant
- Hannaford

Our packages have been bought by a truck owner/operator and industrial plant mechanic. We run Maine's largest Youth Hunting Event. This annual event is free for the participating families and includes meals, monster truck rides and the best youth bear hunt one could hope for.

We have taken our hunters to visit other scenic places in Maine. We have visited Baxter State Park, Acadia National Park and traveled as far as Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth.

We are a single outfit, but the impact of our business and the lodge permits we have sold have been felt across the State of Maine. The program is just starting it's third year. This discussion should not be about stopping lodge permits, it should be about adding more.

Thank you for your time!

Regards,

Ron Greco