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Testimony Presenting LD 1012 An Act To Fund Wildlife Rehabilitators April 7, 2021

Sen. Dill, Rep. Landry and esteemed members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, I am Jessica Fay representing the people of House District 66, parts of the towns of Casco, Poland and Raymond. I am pleased to introduce LD 1012, “An Act to Fund Wildlife Rehabilitators”.

In 2019 I was contacted by the Scouts in Girl Scout Troop 30 - Poland, Minot and Mechanic Falls regarding their interest and concern that some injured or abandoned young wild animals didn't have access to rehabilitation and were going without care that could allow them to be released back into the wild. I am looking forward to the girls sharing their story with you, as they have been preparing diligently to make their case.

We chose to look at ways to fund this type of programming and found that the mission of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, funded by the sales of the Outdoor Heritage lottery ticket, seemed like a place to land. Our intention is not to take any funding away from other worthy causes, but to expand the reach of the program.

I understand that the Department has been doing some assessment of the wildlife rehabilitation program and we are willing to work with them to make sure as many animals can be cared for as possible.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to try to answer any questions you may have.