



Girl Scouts of Maine
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Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Testimony in support of LD1012

Good morning Senator Dill and Representative Landry and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

My name is Skye Loring-Dymond, and I live in Mechanic Falls, where I am a member of the Tri-Town Girl Scout Troop 30. I appreciate this opportunity to voice my support for LD1012, which will help support animal rehabbers across the State.

The reason why rehabilitation is important is that they can identify diseases in various species of animals. For example, White-nose syndrome is an emergent disease of hibernating bats that has spread from the northeastern to the central United States at an alarming rate. This disease spread through Maine and greatly affected its brown bat populations. Animal rehabbers have assisted in identifying and treating this disease as well as helping to support the population growth of bats.

Animal rehabbers can also educate the public about wildlife in Maine. For example, they can help to fight misconceptions about animals in the wild such as the possum, which is often seen as a nuisance but is immune to rabies and eats 5,000 ticks a

year! Another example is helping the public to understand the resources that are available to help wildlife. Often people will think that they are doing a good deed by helping sick or orphaned animals, but they can do more harm than good. That is why it's good having people who are trained and licensed to provide and care for animals, but that comes at a price.

The list of positive services that animal rehabbers provide is long but the State does not offer a consistent source of funding to support these efforts. That is why I am voicing my support for this bill because it is a start in the right direction for such a valuable resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.