



Girl Scouts of Maine
River Valley Service Unit
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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 Karlee Lothrop, and I live in Poland, where I am a member of 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 primary duty of a wildlife rehabilitator is to help, examine injured wildlife, and provide medical care and therapy to help them recover to the point at which they can be released back to the wild or their home. Both game wardens and Animal rehabbers save animals almost every single day. However, the difference between these two is that animal rehabbers do not get paid or reimbursed for their services, even though they are equally important. Rehabbers take in animals that are hard or easy to take care of, and they open up a spot for an animal in need.

I support this bill because it means that rehabbers will get the financial support they need for the work they do. It is important for the wildlife in our state to receive the support that they need because they are an important part of our ecosystem, including an attraction for tourism. Rehabbers are also important in identifying illnesses, such as rabies, in wildlife and can assist in solutions before it becomes a statewide concern. Well for instincts did you know that there are over 40 animal rehabbers in the state of Maine? And those rehabbers are working closely with State organizations, such as the Game Wardens Service, as a vital part of supporting our wildlife.

I will leave you with a quote by Steve Irwin: “ if we save our wild places, we ultimately save ourselves.”

Thank you for your time and consideration.