

Girl Scouts of Maine  
River Valley Service Unit  
Tri-Town Troop 30  
[GSMETroop30@gmail.com](mailto:GSMETroop30@gmail.com)

April 1, 2021

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 Irelyn Smith, and I live in Mechanic Falls, 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.

One reason I think rehabilitators should get funding from the State because they are often the ones who take care of the animals that the Game Wardens find that require special care. The rehabber's goal is to release them back into the wild but there are many costs involved in getting to that point.

As of right now, the only sources of outside funding is either donations or grants, which are not consistent and often involve a competitive process. Wildlife rehabbers regularly utilize their own money to get the supplies and equipment they need. For example, the rehabilitator we met needed enough money for a new sink because their sink was broken but it is needed to care for animals with mange. Where they do not always have the funding that they need, they sometimes need to make the difficult decision to euthanize animals that come to them because they do not have enough money to buy the equipment or services needed to help the animals.

Just imagine that animals that need minimal care had to be euthanized just because the rehabilitators could not pay for what that animal needed. That is why I think that the State should give consistent funding to rehabilitators across Maine so they don't have to euthanize animals over their lack of funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.