



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Kyle R. Bailey

Cell Phone: 939-8600

Kyle.Bailey@legislature.maine.gov

April 21, 2021

Testimony of Representative Kyle R. Bailey in Support of LD 1033 Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Sen. Dill, Rep. Landry and distinguished members on the IF&W Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1033, “An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting on Private Property with the Written Permission of the Landowner.”

I was eight years old when my grandfather first taught me to fire a gun. I enjoyed shooting with him on our family’s farm and practicing with my BB gun. Growing up, my family did not hunt; however, I recently completed my hunter’s education online and secured a hunting license.

My interests in hunting are, first and foremost, to spend quality time with friends, build community and enjoy Maine’s great outdoors. However, there is a slight problem with my plan: I hold two jobs and work for part or most of the day on Saturdays. The best day for me to hunt is Sunday, thus I am here today asking you to lift Maine’s prohibition on Sunday hunting.

It is my understanding that Maine’s Sunday hunting prohibition was not intended to support wildlife populations, protect property rights or promote other outdoor recreational activities. Instead, it was written to impose a particular religion and its Sabbath day on all Mainers, and to promote views of gender and family that a majority of Mainers do not hold.

Muslims hold Friday as their holy day. For Jews, the Sabbath starts at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday. Seventh-day Adventists celebrate the Sabbath on Saturdays. Imposing a Sunday Sabbath on Mainers violates the American principle of separation of church and state that protects individual freedom, as well as religions from being corrupted by the state.

The view that a man is the head of his household, that he earns a living—or in this case, hunts—in order to provide for his wife and children, and that he needs a law to keep him at home with his wife and children on Sundays after attending a Christian Sabbath service is a view that the overwhelming majority of Mainers do not believe should be imposed on others. Hunting is a tradition in Maine that knows no race, sex, sexual orientation, economic status or religion. It should know no particular days of the week, either. I ask you to support LD 1033 and thank you for considering my testimony.