

Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA)

126 Western Avenue, Box 153 * Augusta, Maine 04330 * 207-888-3931

Testimony in Support of L.D. 1213

An Act to Provide the Option of Online or Telephonic Tagging of Harvested Big Game Animals

to

The Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW)

April 21, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW), my name is Harvey Calden and I am President of the Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA) and operator of Tim Pond Camps. The MSCA represents almost 50 sporting lodges from the Rangeley Lakes Region to Lubec and from Belgrade to Allagash. More locations in Maine than Hilton or Marriott.

The MSCA supports L.D. 1213 for the following reasons:

1. Big game tagging must be made easier and less costly to hunters in time and travel. Hunters will appreciate it. The future will demand it.
2. The option reduces the time to get large animals like bear and moose into a cooler. Thus, lowering the risk of tainted meat, cross contamination, and wasteful repeat trips from cooler to tagging station and back.
3. Congestion and lines at tagging stations are reduced. COVID risk is diminished.
4. Public safety is enhanced since hunters are less likely to speed on route to get to a tagging station before closing time. The total outdoor experience improves.
5. Guides can quickly move on to the next client or other tasks rather than be detained escorting a client to the tagging station.
6. Flight and travel connections are easier to manage without the need to work around tagging station hours or to take a time-consuming detour to get to a station. Non-resident hunters can spend more time in the outdoors.
7. With some species, this option removes a time-consuming barrier to hunting. We heard about this when dealing with a 20-pound turkey. Imagine the challenges with an 800-pound moose and fewer tagging locations than turkeys with limited hours of operation.
8. The requirements for data collection, submission of biological samples, or the return of bands or radio collars are unchanged. Some believe compliance with tagging

requirements would increase. Although not the intent of this bill, many states tag completely by telephone or online.

MSCA understands the concerns of staff biologists. However, we are in a world of data overload and the cost to the public to gather data – some of which is never used - must be considered. Moreover, new tools are becoming available for use by biologists like drone surveys, automated intelligence (IA), aerial and satellite imagery, smart game cameras, and more. This bill correctly increases the urgency for the Department to adopt futuristic and inevitable protocols and adapt to the new online world.

The MSCA urges you to support the Bill.

Thank you.

Harvey Calden, President

*The Maine Sporting Camp Association (MSCA) was founded in 1987 by a group of camp owners to preserve the sporting camp's uniqueness in the State of Maine. By working closely with other groups and exchanging ideas and information, the members of MSCA continue the tradition of providing high quality recreational experiences to individuals and their families, a quality experience that visitors will remember long after they return home. The MSCA is a 501C (6) non-profit organization that is led by a board of directors. **Maine Sporting Camp Association** 126 Western Avenue, Box 153, Augusta, Maine 04330, Phone: (207) 888-3931 Email: info@mainesportingcamps.com; Website: www.mainesportingcamps.com*