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Testimony in Opposition to LDs 1033, 1054 & 1212
May 3, 2021

Senator Dill, Representative Landry and members of the Joint Committee of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife:

I'm Ed Friedman, Chair of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) testifying against: •LD 1033, An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting on Private Property with the Written Permission of the Landowner. •LD 1054, An Act To Allow Hunting on Sundays with Written Consent on Private Property. •LD 1212, An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting North of U.S. Route 2 from the New Hampshire Border to Bangor, North of Route 9 from Bangor to the Canadian Border and within That Portion of the White Mountain National Forest inside the State.

FOMB has about 450 households as members and we actively engage research, advocacy, education and land conservation in our mission to protect, preserve and enhance the unique ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay and Gulf of Maine. We count among our members quite a few hunters and fisherman.

Sunday hunting has been banned in Maine since 1883. As legislators have been told over and over, many Mainers would like one day of the week to enjoy the Maine outdoors without hunters nearby. Many hunters feel the same and even those who would enjoy hunting on Sunday do not want to risk unhappy landowners across the state posting their land. Nor can we support setting up a patchwork of areas where Sunday hunting would be allowed with landowner permission. There is no difference between the rights of large and small landowners and we do not believe policies should create different classes of landowners. Maine's landowners already provide many opportunities for recreation, especially in the north Maine woods. So we strongly support preserving the tradition of no hunting on Sunday, which has served Maine well for 138 years. Passing any of these bills would change the relationship more dramatically between Maine landowners and hunters.

Worldwide, we are in the midst of an unprecedented species decline and in many cases extinction. Until this changes and until wildlife species can distinguish property lines and days of the week, Sunday hunting should remain a non-starter.

We urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LDs 1003, 1054 and LD 1212.

Thank you.