

David Grant
Fairfield

Hello,

My name is David Grant. I am writing to you today to express my support for LD1033. There are a number of reasons why Sunday Hunting would be beneficial to Maine. This includes the public who choose not to hunt.

As a lifelong Mainer who grew up in a hunting family. I quickly learned that hunting in Maine is a way of life. It is more than a hobby or just something for someone to do. Many Maine families use hunting as a way to provide for their families. This is of special importance in the tough times such as the one we currently face with the COVID-19 pandemic. Hunting is one way of getting outside and enjoying nature while following recommended guidelines. It is a way for many people to relax away from the stress this pandemic has caused.

Hard times don't just come in the form of pandemics and crisis. They come in the form of a financial struggle. Another issue created by this Pandemic is the financial burden it has placed on business throughout Maine. In the small towns and unorganized territories of Maine, hunting is an industry that people rely on to make a living. Maine being one of only two states in the U.S. which do not allow Sunday hunting are missing out on the financial stability and growth that hunting brings. So many sportsmen from other states and even other countries come to Maine to hunt our big game animals. They spend countless amounts of money with all the licenses, permits and necessary equipment to be able to enjoy a hunt in Maine. Imagine how much money the state of Maine would make if Sundays were a legal hunting day. That financial growth doesn't include the residents who also pay for licenses, fees, permits and much more. Hunters alike would also bring business to the local gas stations and convenience stores with their purchases of food and fuel. From a financial aspect, allowing Sunday hunting has proven to increase revenue in states which allow Sunday hunting and truly is a win win for Maine.

Another major reason to allow Sunday hunting here in Maine is that it creates another day for people to hunt given many of our busy work schedules along with other engagements and matters we must attend to on other days of the week. Many Mainers work Monday Thru Friday or have a schedule which may only allow them to have Sundays off. We truly do not know how many Mainers are either only able to hunt on Saturdays or can't hunt at all due to their schedules. As I previously stated, hunting in Maine is a way of life. Does Maine truly want to take away our way of life because of what day it is. Now you may mention that many companies offer paid time off or sick leave or vacation as a benefit of working for them but some do not. Even if these companies do, the employee may not be able to use the time off or the time off request may be denied for a wide range of reasons.

In closing, research shows that Sunday hunting has been very beneficial to other states which have allowed it. It's beneficial not only to the hunters but beneficial to the businesses and general public by creating more revenue, increasing jobs allowing more people to enjoy the beauty that nature has to offer.

Sincerely,
David Grant