

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

April 21, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you regarding Legislative Document 1033 (LD 1033); an act to allow Sunday hunting on private property with written permission of the landowner. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our strong support for this legislation. LD 1033 takes an important step in the effort to help increase hunter participation by expanding Sunday hunting opportunities. This legislation will undoubtedly invigorate hunter recruitment and retention efforts – key factors in preserving Maine’s hunting heritage for future generations to come.

Gun ownership and participation in hunting and shooting sports are among the strongest of American traditions. For decades, tens of thousands of hunters in Maine have taken to the field to enjoy the great outdoors. However, Maine has seen a decline in the number of licensed hunters over the past decade. This decline is, in part, due to a transition in family lifestyle that is filled with commitments throughout the week. Sunday hunting restrictions add to the challenge of getting out into the field. The addition of an extra day to hunt, increases the opportunity for individuals to experience hunting. Furthermore, expanding Sunday hunting will also provide economic benefits through the purchase of fuel, food, lodging, and many incidentals that go along with a day’s hunt.

Maine is one of only two states where hunting on Sunday is prohibited due to antiquated “blue laws”. Other outdoor activities are allowed on Sunday, both on public and private property, such as fishing, hiking, and golf. Restrictions on Sunday hunting effectively treat hunters as second-class citizens and tacitly endorse the view of animal extremists that something is wrong with hunting. A view that ignores the fact that hunting is part of Maine’s heritage, as well as an important component of wildlife management.

On behalf of our thousands of members in Maine, I urge the committee to support LD 1033. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lauren E. LePage, Esq.

State Director

NRA-ILA