

Don Loprieno  
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Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1212 An Act to Allow Hunting on Sundays. This legislation, like others in the past, seeks to undermine a long standing tradition, one that should be protected and preserved. Unless LD 1212 is rejected, as similar bills have been previously, it will lead to 'a foot in the door' and soon a revered and valued principle will fall victim to the pressures of the modern age at a time when many traditions are under attack.

Som people point to the example set by other places where Sunday hunting is legal, but that doesn't necessarily mean that Maine has to follow when it should lead as our motto 'Dirigo' suggests. Our state has always been a very special place, as people who live here know, and many people work hard and only have Sunday to enjoy time with their families. Often it is the one day of the week when people can relax, sleep a bit later than usual, have breakfast together without rushing off, perhaps go to church, or safely take a quiet walk in the woods. that should be set aside for rest, family and worship. Our pace is slower so we have the time to chat with neighbors and be friendly to strangers, and our customs and traditions help define a more relaxed viewpoint.

By contrast, Sunday hunting disturbs the peace of a day that has been set aside for such activities. After all, hunting seasons for various animals are in effect almost all year. It's not unreasonable that the majority of Mainers be given one day out of seven of quiet and safety and that the animals be given the same.

Sunday is a day away from the world, a special time for families, not just another day for killing- and a day of death and gunfire.. It's a tradition – and it should stay that way.

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