

Testimony of Geri Vistein LD 1212

Senator Dill, Representative Landry and committee members

My name is Geri Vistein and I am here today to express my lack of support for LD 1212: Having to do with allowing Hunting on Sunday.

If I recall, it was just two years ago that a bill similar to this came before the committee, attempting to make it legal to hunt on Sundays. Mainers from all backgrounds came out in force against it.

Mainers drew a line in the sand a long time ago, and have repeatedly done so regarding these attempts to take away their sense of peace and safety on just one day of the week, Sunday.

This bill which draws a line in our state between North and South, does a great injustice to the people of Maine. The people of our state belong to the whole state of Maine, not just the North or South. And the people north of Route 2 care just as much about their Sunday's safety and peace as those in the south. This bill opens up a free for all in the North country.

On the weekends, and that includes Sundays, the people all over our state head North to drink in the wild wonders and peace of our North Country. They are regularly joined by visitors to our state who do the same....tourism being an important part of Maine's economy.

So to seek out the peace and quietude of our North Country and be met by hunting dogs chasing terrified Coyotes or the very real chances of being shot in our White Mountain National forest is a great social injustice to all. In fact it appears that this may very well be another sinister effort to kill our Maine Coyotes every day of the year, six days a week just never being enough for some.

The only result of this bill if passed will cause increased conflict between our Maine people who value their Sundays to be out safely on the landscape, and those individuals who are not content with hunting just six days of the week.

Our legislators have consistently supported the will of all our people who they represent and serve. Let us hold on to that relationship of respect and trust.