

Edward Ames
Stonington

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Landry, Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and members of the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Marine Resources Committees:

Though retired, I am writing on behalf of friends, former like-minded associates and supporters, in support of LD 883: An Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters, as amended by Senator Miramant.

The US Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) was designed to protect and recover imperiled native species and their ecosystems before they go extinct. When a species is listed as Endangered under the ESA, this means that it is in danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its native range. Failing to list a federally-listed species at the state level flies in the face of the intent of both federal and state law.

The proposed legislation will close some management loopholes in Maine and help to bring a number of our species back from the brink. LD 883 will require the Commissioners of the Departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Marine Resources to recommend all species of fish and wildlife that are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA and inhabit Maine land or waters for any part of their life cycles be listed at the state level under the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA) or the Maine Marine Endangered Species Act (MMESA).

Maine is one of only ten states (and the only one in the northeast) that does not mandate or highly recommend in statute the state-level listing of federally-listed species. There is no biological reason for Maine not to list a species that the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have listed as endangered or threatened. Listing these species at the state level means better management and enhanced cooperation among all relevant state agencies.

Maine's threatened and endangered species listings are being applied inconsistently: Of the currently 16 federally-listed threatened and endangered birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish found in Maine, six are not listed at the state level: red knot, Canada lynx, blue whale, green turtle, Atlantic salmon (Maine's state fish), and Atlantic sturgeon. LD 883 will close some management loopholes in Maine and help to bring these and other species back from the brink by streamlining the listing and recovery processes so that it is informed by the best available science.

For these reasons, we urge you to support LD 883, as amended by Senator Miramant. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward (Ted) Ames
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