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Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

I am a resident of Orrington, Maine, a life long Mainer and outdoorsman. I am also a member of Trout Unlimited. Over my life time of 70 years, I have become more concerned about the conservation and protection of all wildlife and our natural environment, but I am particularly interested in our native fisheries.

What has happened to Atlantic salmon in the United States is a shame. As it stands, we are the last chance to save this glorious salmonid. TU has made all of the relevant positive points of why supporting LD883 is so important with one exception: "What happens if we don't pass LD883?" Expecting things to change if we don't take action and do something different from what has been done in the past is, well, you know the rest of that saying by Einstein.

The worst aspect of our state not taking action and supporting the Federal Government on something like an endangered species listing, is that our inaction takes the "teeth" out of the Federal ruling. It gives credence to every sportsman, business, and agency that wants to disregard and take less seriously what is at stake. They can always justify whatever it is that they want to do by saying, "If Maine doesn't think this issue is important enough for an endangered species listing here in our state, then why should I care about it?" Unfortunately they make a good point. Let's change that.