

Robert Goldman
Portland

Sen. Dill, Sen. Miramant, Rep. Landry, Rep. McCreight and members of the Joint Standing Committee,

I am writing in strong support of LD 883, as amended by Sen. Miramant.

It is completely inappropriate that Maine's state legislature, a political body, has the final say in what is or is not listed as an endangered species. That determination is a scientific one and must be based on science, not politics.

The purpose of the federal endangered species act is to identify, protect and recover native species and their habitats that must be protected and restored in order to prevent extinction of that imperiled species. That is obviously a decision for objective and trained scientists.

Please stop the politicization of science, that continues to inflict serious damage on our natural world. Maine is better than that. Follow the objective science of our federal wildlife scientists and ecologists who have the big picture.

Atlantic Salmon, Canada Lynx, Red Nots, Atlantic Sturgeon, Blue Whales, Green Turtles are endangered species. No state legislature should be in a position to declare they are not.

As John Muir said: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." By protecting and restoring endangered wildlife and their habitats, we are protecting and restoring the earth we all share, and that all life on earth needs, to live.

Please do the right thing and pass LD 883.