



## Maine Professional Guides Association

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### **Opposing LD 883 An Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters**

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry and distinguished members of the committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am Don Kleiner I live in Union and am representing roughly 1000 guide members of the Maine Professional Guides Association each of them a Maine based small business.

When we first met, I mentioned the success of the North American model of wildlife management. That model depends on the basic science of population management to allow or in many cases to not allow the taking of species. I urged you to resist taking on the role of biologists in any discussion. Your role is to set policy and allow the wildlife scientists to work to meet those goals. This is a very different policy direction that you are being asked to go in. This bill would give your authority over endangered species in Maine to the Federal government specifically tying Maine to the Federal Endangered Species List. A significant change.

Federally listed species are mostly added by interest group lawsuit rather than careful scientific evaluation and recommendation by biologists. As a current example I suggest that you look and our lynx population. Lynx were added to the Federal Endangered Species list by a lawsuit aimed at western states. Maine was included in this listing against the recommendation of biologists. Over the last twenty years our lynx population has grown significantly and expanded its range. It is now possible to find lynx over a good part of the northern region of our state. This success has not resulted in any Federal recognition of that change or any lessening of restrictions. Perhaps good Federal policy but not as good on the ground here in Maine.

Species that are under Federal protection will still have Federal protection without a listing here in Maine. Specifically in the case of marine species which make up the bulk of species that would be added under this bill. Adding additional protections in Maine's 3 miles of coastal jurisdiction will do little improve to those populations that are here on occasion. Perhaps a brief period in the summer.

With much at risk and little to gain I urge you to vote this bill ought not to pass.

Thank you!