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I am Paul Nickerson, USFWS (retired). I co-wrote the rule listing the Atlantic Salmon as endangered some twenty plus years ago. I support LD883 because it reinforces the State/Federal partnership to protect and recover endangered species regardless of which entity listed them. Decades ago the State of Maine and the US Fish and Wildlife Service signed a cooperative agreement designed to protect and manage threatened and endangered species. Included in the agreement was a provision for grant funds for listed species and it extended management authority to the state for federal species identified in the agreement. The bill would impart state listing on the salmon, lynx and sturgeon and strengthen joint management authority.