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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1965
"An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-managed Land for Deer Management"

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
February 28, 2022

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife my name is Troy Jackson. I have the honor of representing the good people of northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1 and serving as President of the Maine Senate. I'm here today to present LD 1965, "An Act to Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-managed Land for Deer Management."

The concept draft language in LD 1965 reflects a need to more carefully consider the habitat impacts of development on habitat in state-owned and state-managed land. These lands are important for development as we often think about it; building infrastructure, timber harvesting, and other economic activity, it's also the source of environmental and recreational activity that is critical all over our state, but especially in rural areas where hunters and guides bring in substantial economic activity. We need to be sure that when State-owned and State-managed land is developed, projects on that land will have to consider their impact on deer and other species. I hope that this committee, and the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, will create steps to review development plans through a process that will ensure land and critical habitat is protected.

The idea for this bill was brought to me by constituents in Aroostook County who were concerned about cutting on State-owned land as it would impact deer habitat, especially as it relates to LD 404 An Act To Preserve Deer Habitat, which was passed during the last session. This constituent, and sportsmen around the state, are understandably concerned that too few rules exist to consider habitat impact and fully utilize the tools given to the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife to ensure that habitat conservation is considered carefully and clearly when use of state-land is being considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration this morning.