



# Maine Farm Bureau Association

## **Testimony In Opposition to LD 2014 An Act Related to Sunday Hunting**

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

My name is Julie Ann Smith and I am the Executive Director of Maine Farm Bureau. I grew up on a dairy farm in Monmouth and have continued to work in agriculture throughout my life. The success of farming in Maine is an issue close to me personally and I am grateful to have the opportunity today to speak on behalf of the members of the Maine Farm Bureau Association.

Maine Farm Bureau is the state's largest grassroots farm advocacy organization. Our membership is comprised of every type of agriculture commodity and production philosophy. We have represented the voice of all agriculture in Maine for the past 70 years and our grassroots policy development process ensures that we speak for the majority of farmers in Maine.

There are over 7000 farms in Maine that provide food, ATV trails, snowmobile trails, recreational, and agritourism opportunities for Mainers and visitors to our great state. As stewards of over 1.3 million acres of Maine's open space land, farmers are protecting land from development and allowing wildlife to thrive. We have spent centuries supporting hunters and decades strongly opposing Sunday hunting.

Our farmers, through our grassroots policy development process, voted to oppose Sunday hunting in any form and have reaffirmed that position annually for over 40 years. We have testified countless times before this committee with a clear and resounding message that farmers do not want Sunday hunting.

One of Maine agriculture's many commodities is our equine industry. There are estimated to be over 35,000 horses in Maine with an economic impact of over \$400 million. During deer season especially, most farms that offer trail rides limit outings to Sundays to minimize risk. Hunting comes with the significant risk of injury and homicide, but farmers are willing to wear orange, welcome neighbors

and strangers onto their land, and keep their land open, provided the exclusion of Sunday hunting is preserved.

I ask for your support of agriculture in Maine by voting Ought Not to Pass on LD 2014. I would be happy to answer any questions.