

Tyler Brown
Vassalboro
LD 163

Dear respected members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Legislative Committee.

My name is Tyler Brown and I am writing in opposition of LD 163, an Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances.

I understand that the need for this legislation is to gain better communication between lifetime license holders and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to understand how many lifetime license holders are using their lifetime licenses.

What I do not understand is the need to attach a penalty of a class E crime and fine to a lifetime license holder or the need for better communication between IFW and license users. There is already a requirement for lifetime license user to tag their big game quarry. Turkey, black bear, moose and whitetail deer are the most managed and tracked species in Maine. All of these big game animals are required to be tagged by hunters, annual or lifetime license holders.

Attaching a fine to a lifetime license user is unnecessary, should better communication be needed, lifetime license users should be given the opportunity to voluntarily provide this information rather than forced through use of criminal repercussions.

The vast majority of Maine hunters consider themselves conservationists and have the utmost respect wildlife and IFW. Criminalizing hunters for not reporting their usage of a lifetime license, should not be considered the best way to gain better communication from them.

Thank you very much for your time in reading my testimony.