



# Maine Professional Guides Association

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Testimony in Opposition to LD 205  
An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey  
February 12, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I here today on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association in respectful opposition to LD 205.

MPGA represents numerous professional guides that offer turkey hunting opportunities for their clients.

We absolutely recognize and acknowledge many of the concerns you will hear from Senator Timberlake as his reasons for bringing this legislation forward. However, we are concerned about the potential impact that a bag limit of four turkeys per day, the same as ruffed grouse, would have on Maine's turkey population.

While we don't have a perfect solution for the nuisance turkey issues that some landowners experience, we do believe that increasing hunting opportunities (seasons, bag limits, etc...) in reasonable ways that are supported by the Department's historical biological research may be a more sustainable and advantageous way to lower the population, especially in distinct areas and land-bases where turkey populations are most detrimental. We also wonder if more should be done with depredation-like permits that allow certain landowners (farmers) to engage in more aggressive management of local turkey populations in more cost-effective and less time-intensive ways.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be pleased to answer any questions or follow up with additional information as requested.