

David Tobey
Grand Lake Stream, Maine
LD 716

Honorable IF&W committee members,

I've been a Maine guide, fur trapper and inland commercial fishermen for 52 years in the Grand Lake Stream area. During this time I've served as selectman for GLS, president of the Grand Lake Stream guides association and president of the MPGA.

I and others like me have a full understanding of a well managed resource and the financial value to all that depends on it.

I have witnessed the loss of our whitetail deer in eastern, northern and western Maine. Coyotes being the main contributor to the decline. Now we are experiencing a great recovery mostly because coyote hunters, using all the methods available are able to make a difference. Many of these hunters have invested thousands of dollars to do their part in protecting the whitetail deer.

About 30 years ago IF&W along with Maine tourism and the University of Maine compiled values on some of the fish and wildlife resources. At this time they figured for every deer tagged \$750 was spent in Maine. In 2024 , 42,259 deer were harvested considering inflation if now every deer was worth \$1000 that would be 42,259,000 . Is this revenue worth jeopardizing?

I hope you folks unanimously oppose LD-716

Sincerely
Dave Tobey