

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Legislature,

The Fin & Feather Club of Maine would like to express our strong support for **LD820**, a bill that is crucial for the preservation and responsible management of Maine's natural resources. The men and women of our organization are dedicated to conservation, outdoor recreation, and the protection of Maine's diverse ecosystems. We recognize the importance of this legislation and urge you to pass it in the best interest of our environment, wildlife, and future generations of Mainers.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are vital traditions and practices to our state's identity, economy, and quality of life. LD820 ensures that future generations can continue to enjoy our state's natural beauty while providing food for their household and helping to maintain ecological balance. In 2021, Maine voters supported a constitutional Right to Food amendment, which emphasizes food sovereignty rights to producing, harvesting, and consuming their food. By supporting this bill, we are not only advocating for the protection of our environment, but also for the sustainable management of outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation—activities that are integral to our club's mission and to the well-being of Maine's outdoor community.

We believe that LD820 provides a responsible framework for ensuring that Maine's wildlife habitats are protected, while also supporting the livelihoods and traditions of those who depend on these resources. This bill represents a collaborative effort to balance conservation efforts with the economic needs of local communities, allowing for continued access to outdoor recreation, tourism, and sustainable resource use. Several of our members are Registered Maine Guides who know the importance of this firsthand.

The Fin & Feather Club of Maine stands ready to assist in joining the other 24 states in implementing these rights into their State Constitution. We thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Alex Groat & Lynn Bernard
Communication Co-Directors
Bryant Davis
President
Fin & Feather Club of Maine

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Millinocket
LD 820
Revised and corrected