

TESTIMONY BY RYAN D. PELLETIER IN SUPPORT OF
LD 940 An Act to Increase Cash Prizes for Fishing
Derbies

Greetings Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan Pelletier and I am a resident of St. Agatha. I also serve as the Treasurer of the Long Lake Ice Fishing Derby. I am testifying today in support of LD 940, An Act to Increase Cash Prizes for Fishing Derbies.

2025 marked the 20th anniversary of our fishing derby in Northern Maine. What started off as a small one lake derby back in 2005 has grown to become Maine's Largest Ice Fishing Derby registering over 2,000 anglers this last year and awarding \$25,000 in cash prizes in a variety of categories.

The \$25,000 limit has been in place for many years, at least the last 20 that we have been in operation. When we started the Derby in 2005 it was limited to only Long Lake. However, over the years we have expanded to include 9 different waterbodies including two international lakes that border Maine and New Brunswick and Quebec respectively. If we were to hold multiple derbies on these waterbodies we would be allowed to offer up to \$25,000 PER DERBY. We do not feel it is fair that even though our Derby includes multiple waterbodies we are limited to the

\$25,000 cash prize limit like derbies of much smaller size and participation.

Somewhere along the way an exception to the rule was made for the Sebago Lake Derby. I am not aware of the history or reason for that, but I can tell you that at one time, that Derby was Maine's largest.

We would like to see the limit increased to \$50,000. While we have no intention to increase our cash prize to that amount anytime soon, we do feel that it would give us the flexibility to continue to grow and expand our derby for many years to come.

In closing I thank all of you for your time and consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Ryan D. Pelletier

Long Lake Derby Treasurer