

**Testimony in Support of LD 1343**  
**An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife**  
**April 9, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association (MPGA) and Maine Trappers Association (MTA) in support of LD 1343. We thank Senator Hickman for bringing this legislation forward for your consideration.

As we testified previously on proposed legislation to establish a constitutional amendment to protect the right to hunt and fish, both the MPGA and MTA are strongly supportive of efforts to protect the right to hunt, fish, and trap.

While the exact language in this proposed legislation may require some adjustment and input from important stakeholders, we believe that its intent and ultimate impact are important.

Aligning current constitutional protections in the Right to Food with complimentary and clear statutory definitions that reflect the Legislature's clear intentions is an important and valuable exercise.

On behalf of both organizations, I would be pleased to participate in any process or discussion to make sure that the final language is effective and appropriately protects and balances the wide spectrum of interests- from private landowners to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Attorney General.

Thank you for your consideration, and we would be pleased to answer any questions or provide more information at the work session upon your request.