

Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 1343-An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife

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This bill should be renamed “An Act to Establish the Right to Kill wildlife for Fun”.

This bill is an overreach because it establishes the definition of “harvest” to include killing wildlife that are not intended for consumption. The so-called Right to Food constitutional amendment was approved by the people as a RIGHT TO FOOD amendment, not as a right to kill amendment.

This bill and its sponsorship by Senator Hickman are clearly payback for the support for the constitutional amendment given by Maine “sportsmen” and specifically the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine. It is nothing but politics at its worst.

This bill purports to establish a “Right to harvest wildlife”. Rights are not created through statutes. They are created through the constitution. Maine has established no “right” to kill wildlife for any reason other than for food. The legislature cannot establish a “Right”.

Please oppose this bill for the reasons noted above.