

Jennifer Skiff  
Seal Cove  
LD 1364

April 8, 2025

Committee of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony In Support of LD 1364 - An Act to Authorize a Study on the Impacts and Risks of Lead-based Ammunition.

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

My name is Jennifer Skiff and I am from Mt. Desert Island, Maine. Thank you to Representatives Bridgeo and Dill for sponsoring LD 1364 and Representative Roberts for co-sponsoring. It's my pleasure to offer testimony to you in support of this incredibly important bill.

I know you are being presented with many thoughts on this simple bill to support research on lead bullets and the effects of those bullets on wildlife and the environment. I'm offering comments today from my role in Washington as Director of International Programs for the Center for a Humane Economy.

I am a lifelong resident of Mount Desert Island and was raised in Bar Harbor. I grew up in Acadia National Park and also in the north woods (where my family had a camp). I was instilled with an appreciation for the woods, waterways, and wildlife of our great state. I now work with governments on initiatives that protect animals and their environments to support all life.

I returned to Maine last week after visits to Botswana, Angola, South Africa, and Australia. In Africa I'm working with charity, Elephants Without Borders and partnered with Angola's Ministry of the Environment to rewild the country after 30 years of civil war that decimated the wildlife. It's an initiative to keep elephants on our planet while also providing jobs in a country that suffers 30% unemployment. In Australia my work involves kangaroo protection.

Upon sitting down this morning to ask that you move forward with a study on the effects of lead in our environment in Maine, I was reminded of the work I'm doing in Australia to protect the wildlife there - wildlife that is collateral damage of the commercial hunting of wild kangaroos. I know that my good colleague, Gina Garey has provided you with ample United States-based research on the issue. I'm offering a bit of research that will add to hers.

Lead is a deadly, global problem – for all species, including ours. I thank you for moving forward with research to identify the effects of lead bullets on our wildlife and ecosystems in Maine.

Here is the most recent research out of Australia:

Heads in the sand: public health and ecological risks of lead-based bullets for wildlife shooting in Australia: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/wr/wr17180>

Scavenging birds at risk of ingesting fragments of lead bullets from kangaroo and deer carcasses in south-eastern Australia:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343785969\\_Scavenging\\_birds\\_at\\_risk\\_of\\_ingesting\\_fragments\\_of\\_lead\\_bullets\\_from\\_kangaroo\\_and\\_deer\\_carcasses\\_in\\_south-eastern\\_Australia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343785969_Scavenging_birds_at_risk_of_ingesting_fragments_of_lead_bullets_from_kangaroo_and_deer_carcasses_in_south-eastern_Australia)

Lead v. Copper for shooting Sambar Deer:

[https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/900113/Lead-v-copper-for-shooting-sambar-deer-Hampton-et-al-2022-.pdf](https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/900113/Lead-v-copper-for-shooting-sambar-deer-Hampton-et-al-2022-.pdf)

Lead exposure of Australia's top avian predator:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37302786/>

Thank you very much for your leadership and consideration,

Jennifer Skiff

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