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Date

The Honorable Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Maine State Legislature
Augusta, ME

Dear Members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to legalize deer hunting on Mount Desert Island. As a resident of Northeast Harbor, I have spent considerable time and financial resources to protect my property, plants, and gardens from the devastating effects of the overpopulation of deer on the island. The unchecked deer population is causing extensive damage to the local environment, including native vegetation, agricultural lands, and private gardens.

Overpopulation has resulted in deer browsing on my property, destroying many of the plants and shrubs I have worked so hard to cultivate. Despite the significant investments in protective measures such as fencing and other deterrents, the situation has worsened, and the damage continues to increase. I am not alone in this experience, as many of my neighbors and fellow residents are also grappling with similar challenges.

Mount Desert Island's unique ecosystem is being disrupted by the growing deer population, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a healthy balance. The lack of a regulated hunting program has allowed this issue to escalate, affecting both private property owners and public spaces like Acadia National Park. Additionally, there has been an increase in vehicle collisions involving deer, posing a significant safety risk to residents and visitors alike.

Legalizing controlled deer hunting would offer a solution that balances the need to protect private property, safeguard public lands, and address the safety concerns that have been mounting due to the overpopulation. A well-managed hunting program would help restore the natural balance, reduce the damage to local vegetation, and create a safer environment for everyone on the island. Furthermore, the revenue generated from hunting licenses could be reinvested into wildlife management and conservation efforts, ensuring that the health of the broader ecosystem is preserved.

I fully support any measures that ensure this program is carried out with the utmost responsibility and safety. Implementing strict regulations, including designated hunting seasons and zones, would help mitigate concerns about safety and ethical practices while allowing for effective population control.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I believe that legalizing deer hunting on Mount Desert Island will have a positive and lasting impact on both the local community and the environment. I urge you to support this initiative and take the necessary steps to bring it to fruition.

Sincerely,
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