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To Maine State Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham:

I am a professional wildlife photographer and former trial lawyer residing on Mt. Desert Island ("MDI"). I chose to live here because there is no hunting and it is home to Acadia National Park.

What is the real reason you filed a bill to allow hunting of deer on this beautiful island, a place where you do not reside or represent? A gift to your hunting friends? Apparently it is not enough that you and your friends can kill deer for fun anywhere else in Maine.

Four million people, many, if not most, families with children, visited MDI and Acadia last year. The last thing these people came to see are once beautiful White-tailed Deer dead and bloodied in the back of a pick up truck.

If you are really concerned about cars striking deer, which I doubt, then lower the speed limit on the island to a maximum of 40 mph. I live as far from getting off the island as you can get, about 16 miles from Trenton. If the speed limit were reduced it might take me as much as an extra minute to get off the island.

As for Lyme disease, you would probably have to kill every deer on MDI to make a dent. The ticks that cause it do take blood meals from deer and other animals, including pets, but do not infect deer. Killing 75 percent of the deer population at Crane Beach in Ipswich, MA failed to reduce Lyme Disease. Harvard School of Public Health, newsletter by Staff Writer Rachel Johnson dated November 2010.

So please, take your bloodlust elsewhere and leave MDI as the spectacular and beautiful sanctuary it is for its wildlife, its residents, and the millions of people who visit every year.