

Mark Sullivan
Southwest Harbor
LD 1438

I'm submitting my written testimony objecting to LD 1438/H.P. 947. I also object to its origin and the processes around its advancement.

I live and vote in Southwest Harbor and have a very busy deer trail through my yard. I'm all for a significant culling of the MDI deer herd and I believe that most of my fellow island residents share a similar view.

But I want my MDI reps, Reps Eaton and Friedmann, to introduce a bill for us that's the result of discussion and collaboration with all of our island towns, officials and citizens.

What I do not want are Representatives from across the bay, and from 50, 90 and 120 miles from MDI proposing action - without consulting our own Representatives- that would have a significant, even if beneficial, impact on this island.

The sponsor and co-sponsors do not have any constituents on MDI. There are no constituents here who could have asked for their unilateral action because citizens on MDI do not vote in the 12th, 97th, 35th, or 139th districts.

If the bill's sponsor and co-sponsors are of genuine intent to open deer hunting more broadly, I hope all their fellow Reps and House Leadership will ask why they did not bring forth bills for all eight towns and three smaller islands that currently do not permit fully-open deer hunting. (Maine Revised Statutes Title 12, Section 11402, Sub-section 4.)

As an MDI voter, I see the actions of the sponsor and co-sponsors to be disappointingly non-collegial, unprofessional, and un-productively partisan. Both Representative Eaton and Friedmann confirmed in emails that they were not contacted, consulted, or invited to participate by those four Representatives. What was their intent in going over the heads of MDI's local Representatives? Does their action violate any formal or informal working agreements in the House?

LD 1438 appears to actually be mischievous, divisive, and a nuisance. "Trolling" comes to mind, and not the fishing kind. It seems to me this bill is a deliberate time-waster for the Maine House when consultation, collaboration, and cross-party sponsorship - with its attendant communication, compromise, and win-win approach- is absolutely needed by the House and for the citizens it represents. I hope LD 1438/H.P. 947 ends quickly.

Sincerely,
Mark Sullivan