

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 1265

**LD TITLE: AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN MAINE'S ASSENT
LANGUAGE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL AID IN
WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT**

SPONSORED BY: Representative DAVIS of Sangerville
Co-Sponsored by: Senator DUTREMBLE of York
Representative SHAW of Standish

DATE OF HEARING: May 3, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Andrea Erskine, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in support of **L.D. 1265**.

This bill proposes to amend and strengthen the wording in Title 12 that authorizes the Department to participate in the Federal Aid in Wildlife and Fish Restoration Acts which provide funding for fish and wildlife restoration projects.

In an audit conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010, one of the findings was as follows: *Inadequate Assent Legislation: The State's legislation assenting to the Acts does not include a prohibition against diverting license fees for purposes other than the administration of its fish and wildlife agency.* I have attached the detail of this finding and recommendation, as well as the sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that apply regarding eligibility to receive the benefits of the Acts, and what the definition of "revenue from hunting and fishing licenses" includes.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.