

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 1399**

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE AROOSTOOK BAND OF  
MICMACS CERTAIN RIGHTS REGARDING HUNTING, FISHING  
AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative WILLETTE of Mapleton**

**COSPONSORED BY: Senator JACKSON of Aroostook  
Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook  
Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle**

**DATE OF HEARING: May 9, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am John Boland, Director of the Bureau of Resource Management at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against **L.D. 1399**.

L.D. 1399, if enacted, will provide the Aroostook Band of Micmac's the same authority to regulate hunting, fishing and wildlife management as that of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation. Additionally, enactment of this bill would provide, upon request, a moose permit to each member of the Aroostook Band of Micmac's each year.

The Department does not object to the portion of the bill that provides the Micmac's with the same authority as the Passamaquoddy's and Penobscot's to regulate, hunting, fishing and wildlife management on their tribal or reservation lands.

However, Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, as well as this Legislative Committee goes to great length to develop short and long term management plans for Maine's moose population species. Current rules, regulations and permit allocations are painstakingly developed using sound biological information as well as social and economic considerations presented as part of the public working group's input; once they are developed, the public is afforded ample opportunity for input to create these rules.

Permitting potentially hundreds of additional moose hunters in Maine would be in direct conflict with the Department's mission to protect, conserve and enhance Maine's moose population. In order to accommodate this change, the Department would need to reduce the number of permits available to Maine residents and non-residents. We cannot support this proposal as these are permits which would have previously been awarded to hunters, many of whom have been waiting a lifetime to receive a permit. The Department feels that this proposal would not be viewed as fair by the average moose hunter who applies for a moose permit each year, and is therefore opposed to this portion of the bill.

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