

**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. 173**

**LD TITLE: AN ACT TO REMOVE THE RANGELEY PLANTATION  
SANCTUARY FROM THE LIST OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin**

**DATE OF HEARING: March 5, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Wildlife Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against L.D. 173.

L.D. 173 removes the Rangeley Lakes Plantation Sanctuary from the list of Wildlife Sanctuaries that is detailed in Title 12 Section 12706.

The list of sanctuaries that is detailed in this section contains land owned by private individuals, utilities, schools and land trusts. The reasons for the establishment of any individual sanctuary are not well documented in statute. However, it is the department's experience that they typically have a strong local following and inspire strong reactions both for and against. The department actively works with the landowners to use the wildlife management tools of hunting and trapping as ways to control wildlife populations and resolve nuisance wildlife issues. In many cases we have worked with landowners to add hunting or trapping back into these areas to address damage caused by beaver or deer. While the department is a strong proponent of public access for these traditional Maine activities we recognize the right of these individuals to seek the status afforded in this statute for their lands. In the case where landowners seek to remove their lands from the wildlife sanctuary designation the department is supportive.

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