

**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. 857**

**An Act To Examine Fees Charged by Municipalities Concerning  
Outdoor-related Activities**

**Sponsored By: Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester  
Cosponsored By: Senator DUTREMBLE of York  
Representative DAVIS of Sangerville  
Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship  
Representative KUSIAK of Fairfield  
Representative MARKS of Pittston  
Representative SHAW of Standish  
Representative SHORT of Pittsfield  
Senators BURNS of Washington  
Senator HASKELL of Cumberland.**

**DATE OF HEARING: May 3, 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. 857**.

L.D. 857 would examine the issue of Municipalities charging for access and limiting the extent of the hunting seasons within their communities as part of the expanded archery season. The expanded archery season was implemented by this body to provide opportunities where firearms discharge ordinances have been enacted. The Department has heard concerns from hunters about these issues; consequently we are concerned about Municipalities creating ordinances that conflict with state laws that govern hunting. A couple of examples are the requirement by a Maine town for a hunter to have written permission to hunt by a landowner and a town in Maine having differing penalties under the town ordinance for hunting violations. We recognize the importance of determining if this is an issue, the extent of it and addressing it as appropriate.

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