23 June 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:


This bill is another attempt by the Legislature to micromanage the Executive Branch. It requires the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) to amend its rules to expressly permit bear-baiting at sites that are not accessible by road, but are accessible by water. The bill also directs the Director of BPL to issue a revised lease of land in Township 16, Range 6 for Eagle Lake Sporting Camps, changing its term from 15 years to 30 years, notwithstanding the limitation in current law for such leases to be no longer than 15 years.

In addition to micromanaging the department, this bill sets a dangerous precedent by allowing the Legislature to enact laws to benefit specific businesses or entities without considering all of the pertinent information that the department uses to make these deliberate decisions. If this bill passes, how is the Legislature going to pick and choose which sporting camp and campground leases they are going to intervene in or what public reserved land uses should be altered to benefit a few at the expense of all Maine citizens? The Legislature needs to think about the long-term consequences a bill like this will have on the state.

For these reasons, I return LD 1126 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor