30 March 2018

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

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1816, “An Act Regarding the Penalties for Hunting Deer over Bait.”

I am concerned that this bill’s change in penalty to a suspension of just two years for a second conviction for hunting deer over bait does not go far enough to provide a strong deterrent to dissuade hunters inclined to violate hunting regulations.

Hunting deer over bait prosecutions have steadily increased since 2004. More than 100 hunters a year are prosecuted for this violation, and I believe stricter penalties are needed to reduce this noncompliance.

For these reasons, I return LD 1816 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor