



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
BUREAU OF PARKS & LANDS  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL  
COMMISSIONER

**Testimony of Douglas Reed**  
**Deputy Director, Maine Public Lands**  
**Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST**  
**L.D. 1270**

**AN ACT TO CREATE CERTAIN RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON STATE-OWNED LAND**

**DATE OF HEARING:** 4 April 2019

**PRESENTED BY:** President JACKSON of Aroostook

**COSPONSORED BY:** Representative COREY of Windham

Senator Dill, Representative Hickman and members of the committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. My name is Doug Reed and I am the Deputy Director for Public Lands of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and I am testifying on behalf of the administration as neither for nor against LD 1270.

Maine Public Lands currently has a rule regarding the use of firearms that states: "Except for persons holding a valid Maine concealed weapons permit, loaded firearms are not permitted in campsites, on marked hiking trails, or at boat launches and picnic sites, and should not be discharged within 300 feet of such areas".

This rule was created primarily with public safety in mind. Hunting is a dispersed recreational activity. Concentrating hunters and recreationists and attracting them to one trail has major safety implications.

Creating a destination for people such as a hiking trail or hiking trailhead takes a dispersed activity such as hunting and congregates people to one location or one route. This results in a greater opportunity for accidents that occur when shooting firearms whose ammunition can travel long distances to unknown targets. The months of October and November are also peak times for hiking enthusiasts for viewing fall foliage and to enjoy the cooler weather.

The Bureau offers hundreds of thousands of acres that are open for hunting. This is a major use of Public Lands and will continue to be far into the future to support Maine's hunting heritage. Public Lands welcomes the discussion of new recreational experiences and is open to new concepts as long as public safety and other considerations are mitigated.

Thank you.

TOM DESJARDIN, BUREAU DIRECTOR  
PARKS & LANDS  
18 ELKINS LANE, HARLOW BUILDING



PHONE: (207) 287-3821  
FAX: (207) 287-6170  
WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF/