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Testimony In Opposition

LD 617, An Act To Increase to 3 the Number of Youth Deer Hunting Days

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of the SAM Institute for Legislative Action

February 20, 2019

Senator Dill, representative Nadeau, members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is David Trahan and I representing the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action, testifying in opposition to LD 617, An Act to Increase to 3 the Number of Youth Deer Hunting days, sort of.

Although we do not support this bill, as it is drafted, we do support the sponsor's intent to recruit new hunters. It is no secret that hunting participation is decreasing and we need to do more to replace our retiring conservationists, me included.

We feel we have done enough to encourage young people with the existing youth hunting days, we feel it is time to recruit from the rest of the population. If the sponsor is willing to work with us, we would like to establish a working group to explore the concept of a new hunter/mentoring opportunity. We feel a new hunting day should be to "mentor a new hunter" instead of continuing to expand youth days. If the committee is receptive, we would like an opportunity to share some ideas with the department and bill sponsor and then bring them back to the committee for work session.