



## **SAM ILA**

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### Testimony In Opposition

LD 188, An Act to Provide for an Expanded Muzzle-loading-only Deer Hunting Season

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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

February 4, 2019

Senator Dill, Rep. Nadeau, members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is David Trahan, Executive Director of the SAM Institute for Legislative Action and I am testifying in opposition to LD 188, An Act to Provide for an Expanded Muzzle-loading- only Deer Hunting Season.

As explained in the previous testimony, the Commissioner's authority is a very important tool to manage all areas of the state, particularly, for areas with deep late season snow cover. Below is an excerpt from that testimony which further explains our opposition:

"Maine is a large and diverse state our climate and habitat varies widely as you move from the coast where deer populations are healthy and thriving. To the North and West, whitetail populations are struggling to recover and deer wintering areas have disappeared or are limited at best. In some of these areas deep snow cover can come as early as the last week of November; as a result, allowing regular firearm hunting this late into the season will lead to much higher levels of hunting pressure in these limited deer wintering areas."

I hope the committee will defeat both these changes and continue to allow the department the authority to effectively and properly manage this important wildlife population.