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Testimony In Opposition

LD 190, An Act to Provide Antlerless Deer Permits to Senior Resident Lifetime License Holders

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 190, An Act to Provide Antlerless Deer Permits to Senior Resident Lifetime License Holders.

In the last legislative session, our organization testified against all legislation that created carve outs or special treatment for groups that wanted lottery permits. A true lottery system is supposed to have the same odds of success for all entries. With various exceptions that guarantee permits for a certain group, the odds for the average hunter to have their name picked in the lottery diminish quickly. The antlerless deer permit system is a biologist's management tool, not a system to create the haves and have-nots. If we continue down the road of special carve outs, perhaps it is time to scrap the permit system altogether so all hunters have the same odds of harvesting a deer.