

Patrick Corey
Windham

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, I am Representative Patrick Corey of Windham and I am testifying in support of LD 394, An Act To Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit To Hold a Regatta, Race or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition.

As a sportsman, birder, and former member of this committee, I know that we must find a balance between our recreational outdoor activities and the necessity of our treasured wildlife to flourish. This committee and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are well positioned to do just this.

The bill in front of you reminds me a lot of Maine's "incidental take" law (MRS Title 12, §12808-A). Incidental take is an unfortunate impact on wildlife that is a result of an otherwise lawful activity. That law seeks to prevent, minimize and mitigate the "take" through the authorization of an activity by the MDIFW Commissioner. I would take a look at that law.

Given Maine's incidental take law, I believe Maine currently engages in activities similar to those suggested in this bill. For this reason I would encourage the committee and bill's sponsor to work this bill and report something out that strikes a balance between the activities listed in LD 394 and the wildlife, habitat, and water quality it seeks to protect. This bill appears to do that.

Thank you.