



SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE of MAINE

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Dear Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee:

I am writing you on behalf of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. We are concerned about LD 421, An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Harvesting of Wild Mushrooms and Fiddleheads. We have no concerns with the mushrooms section of this legislation and understand the recent new law regulating the harvesting of mushrooms, but we do have significant concerns about the fiddleheads section of this bill. Mushrooms can be deadly if harvested incorrectly, so strict regulations make sense.

Many of the shorefronts along rivers in Maine have out of state landowners. Several large land managers also own vast sections of river. These land owners are very difficult to contact and in many cases their business will have little interest in fielding phone calls from citizens wanting to harvest fiddleheads; in addition, identifying land markers will be almost impossible and will likely lead to enforcement nightmares.

We respectfully request the committee amend this bill and take out the references to fiddleheads at the same time we would like to offer our services educating our members and the public about this issue. Access to private property is important to all sportsmen and outdoor recreationists. We pledge to do all we can through our SAM News and web site to educate respect for landowners. There is already a law in place that allows posting of property "Access by Permission" or "No Trespassing" to protect landowners. At least we should try these avenues and a public education campaign before passing a new law.

Thank you

David Trahan, Executive Director
Sportsman's Alliance of Maine