

LaCroix, Linda

From: Ray and Wendy <wendyandrayzer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:13 PM
To: IFW
Subject: Opposed to LD 337

Dear Ms. Lacroix:

I am adamantly opposed to LD 337, which would permit spring hunting of Maine Black bears. It's no surprise that the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine supports this measure because it will create more opportunities to kill bears, which is their chief priority. One legislator suggests we simply refer decisions like this to state biologists, who are far from objective. Any conclusion reached by employees of an organization that adds to its revenue is likely to be accepted, whereas one that results in less revenue will very likely be rebuffed. In this situation, economics replaces science and employers get told what they want to hear. The more bears that are killed, the more revenue that's generated, a large portion of which helps support DIFW. We need to invest more heavily in protecting our wildlife, not marketing it as a commodity.

LD 337 would lead to the demise of orphaned bear cubs when their mothers are killed, which I find particularly disturbing. Furthermore, trapping in general is a hideously cruel, barbaric practice that should be outlawed in general. And how can we reconcile feeding bears tons of junk food bait with our admonition never to feed the bears? In 2015, researchers at the University of Southern Maine produced a paper titled "Controlling the Black Bear Population in Maine" (<https://www.systemdynamics.org/assets/conferences/2015/proceed/papers/P1018.pdf>), which concluded that "using bait increases the black bear population to very high levels." It makes much more sense just to stop feeding them instead of killing more of them.

Please copy this letter and distribute my comments to committee members before the hearing on Monday, February 11.

Wendy Andresen
14 Cove Rd.
Camden, ME 04843