

Hello,

I'm writing to submit testimony to my opposition to LD 337, as I believe a spring bear hunt is unsporting and unnecessary. As a 10-year resident of Aroostook County, I have seen bears only a handful of times, and those were all when I ventured into the woods or very close to the woods. Every single time, the bears ran as soon as they spotted me. I have never heard of anyone here having a bad encounter with a bear beyond perhaps a bird feeder or trash can raided (not a major problem!). Thus, the argument that the state needs a spring hunt to reduce the bear population and thereby reduce "conflict" with humans strikes me as ridiculous.

In addition, spring is a time when bears would be especially vulnerable as they come out of hibernation. I'm especially concerned with mother bears being killed, leaving cubs on their own, which is certain to end with them starving or falling prey to predators as they are not equipped in spring to take care of themselves.

I am unable to be at the hearing on Monday, as I live 4+ hours from Augusta; however, I do hope my comments will be taken into consideration. There are much more humane ways to live with the state's bears. Please do not allow a spring hunt!

Thank you very much.
Sincerely,

Hollie Wolverton
Presque Isle, ME