

Good day,

I am writing to urge, in the strongest of terms, to please cancel the plans for a Spring bear hunt. This is extremely cruel for several reasons:

- this is the time of year when cubs are young and dependent on their mothers. It would be extremely cruel to take the mother when the cubs are dependent upon her for their survival. They would be left to die by means that could be starvation, by a predator or just exposure to the elements. I don't think a true sportsman would ever wish this death upon an innocent animal.

- there is a very long bear hunt in the Fall already and an additional hunt is totally unnecessary and without merit.

- an additional hunt would not reduce the number of bears. Maine allows bear baiting which actually increases the number of bears and defeats the purpose of a hunt. Bears produce offspring in direct correlation to the food available. (not to mention this is like shooting fish in a barrel) Why would a true hunter/sportsman wish to sit in a tree and shoot an animal that comes (to them) for food? This is so wrong on so many levels.

I urge you to not pass legislation to allow this hunt. Maine is better than this and the State needs to work on changes to its hunting laws. There is a reason that Maine is the only state that allows bear baiting, trapping and hunting with dogs.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Peggy Richardson