

I am writing in opposition to the proposal of a spring bear hunt in Maine (LD 337). It is ethically indefensible to kill bears during the time period they are emerging from their dens with their cubs. If a mother is shot while away from her cubs, cubs are left to die of starvation, predation, or exposure. There is evidence that directives to hunters to spare mothers with cubs do not work because mothers often leave their youngest cubs to search for food without cubs in tow.

The fall bear-hunting season is already nearly three months long. Maine is the only state left in the nation to allow all three methods of killing bears – baiting, hounding, and trapping. Adding a spring bear-hunting season would allow virtually no time for bears to live free from hunting threats.

Furthermore, the fact that the state of Maine still allows baiting and trapping is indefensible. Only cowards "hunt" by these cruel methods. You should be ashamed.

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