

Attn: Linda Lacroix

Please copy and distribute my comments to the committee members , before the vote on Monday. Thank You

Hunters trap, hunt and bait bears. Now there is a request that a Spring Bear Hunt be allowed. Just in time for the Mother Bears to be taken away from the young- leaving them to be sentenced to certain death.

If you are concerned about the bear population- stop feeding them. That seems to be a major tenet of I.F. & W. Populations increase when there is a food source. It's illegal to bait deer. How was this baiting bill for bear, ever passed.

I.F. & W are charged with protecting the animal population, not supplying hunters with wildlife targets and making money off them. For instance, I was shocked when reading about the Moose Lottery. According to the paper , 54,000 requests came in for Moose Lottery Permits at \$15 each. Then , when the Lottery "Winners" are selected- they pay for permits ect. We're talking at least a million dollars - and that's just the moose hunt (slaughter).

Maine Guides are allowed to set up Baiting Stations- as long as they pay for all the hunting permits. Then they bring "arm chair hunters" in and allow them to shoot bears , as they feed on the donut piles that have been put out , to attract the bears. They charge each hunter , a thousand dollars , for their services.

Sporting??? I think not.

Historically, Maine has been a hunting State, but in 2019 -hunters are no longer the majority. Let's not turn them loose on Mother Bears.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Morey- Lincolnville Maine 04849