

Oppose LD 337

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

As a Conservation Biologist here in Maine, whose work focuses on carnivores and our relationship to them, I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the Bill LD 337 proposing a Spring Bear Hunt.

There is a point where we humans must DRAW THE LINE, and this is definitely a place to draw the line.

We know through our science that our bears leave their places of hibernation in the Spring. And when they do, they are starving due to their long Winter's fast. But Mother bears do not leave their den alone....their tiny cubs born in the den during the Winter trail behind her. They are COMPLETELY dependent on her for their survival. If she is killed at this time, her cubs will die a slow death by starvation.

We humans find many excuses for our actions...excuses we create in our own heads...but have no place in reality.

So what is the excuse this time for such a bill?

Again...our science has taught us that carnivores (our bears are carnivores as well as omnivores) control their own populations very well....they have been doing so for centuries before humans ever entered the American continent. Practicing birth control is a matter of survival for them. *They don't need us to control* their populations.

BUT.... We do affect their populations by our behavior: having food available to them, that would otherwise not be available to them AND affecting their habitat.

Finally, our science has evolved to understand that we have an ethical relationship with other life. And one must ask: How ethical is this proposed bill? Ask yourself that.

Respectfully,

Geri Vistein

Carnivore Conservation Biologist

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