

writing to you in opposition to LD 337 which would permit a spring bear hunt in Maine. First, I oppose the three month inhumane bear hunt that is currently legal in Maine during the fall. Using bait, traps and dogs is barbaric and sadly, we're the only or one of the only states to allow these practices. Second, we as Mainers should be proud of our robust black bear population, and if there's concern we have too many bears, there's evidence that our current practices may be increasing the population. Also, spring is the time bears and their cubs come out of hibernation after a long winter. Killing adult bears with cubs is a terrible idea since the cubs may die from starvation and neglect. Adult mothers often hunt alone, so someone shooting her may never know she had young cubs. I think our emphasis at the state level should be protection of our bear population along with education for residents as to how to minimize bear human conflicts, particularly in the spring and early summer when their food sources are scarce.

I hope other Maine citizens who love our wildlife and wild places, will speak out against this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pam Lanz 126 Buck St. Gorham, ME 04038