

## LaCroix, Linda

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**From:** Colette Bazylinski <colette.bazylinski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 8, 2019 9:37 PM  
**To:** LaCroix, Linda  
**Subject:** Oppose LD 337

Dear Ms. LaCroix,

Below please find my comments opposing LD 337 (introducing a spring bear hunt in Maine).

I am opposed to introducing a spring bear hunt in Maine. A spring bear hunt is completely unnecessary because hunters and trappers in Maine already have ample opportunities to kill bears, from August to November (in 2018); bait can also be placed beginning in late July (all information comes from the IFW website). Maine is already the only state to allow three methods of killing bears, via baiting, trapping, and hounding. If a spring bear hunting season is added, bears will have little time to live without the threat of being hunted by humans.

I am also concerned about the impact a spring bear hunting season would have on bear mothers and cubs. As mother bears emerge from their dens in the spring, they typically go in search of food for their cubs, while the cubs are left behind in the den. There is no way for hunters to distinguish mother bears from other female bears. If a mother is shot away from her cubs, the cubs will likely be left to die from starvation, predators, etc. This is simply cruel and not ethical hunting.

In addition, there seem to be more studies showing that baiting actually increases bear populations (see, for example, "Consumption of intentional food subsidies by a hunted carnivore" at <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jwmg.21304> and "Controlling the Black Bear Population in Maine" at <https://www.systemdynamics.org/assets/conferences/2015/proceed/papers/P1018.pdf>). If the purpose of a spring hunt is simply to reduce bear populations, perhaps IFW should rethink the policy of allowing bear baiting.

I urge the Committee to oppose LD 337. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Colette Bazylinski  
South Berwick, ME