

**LaCroix, Linda**

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**From:** Wendy Kearney <wkearney@coa.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2019 11:47 PM  
**To:** IFW  
**Subject:** IN OPPOSITION to LD 337

Dear Linda LaCroix

Please include these comments in the public record and share them with the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Thank you.

I would like to express my opposition to LD 337, An Act to Start a Spring Bear Hunting Season. A Spring hunt would be unsportsmanlike (shooting a groggy animal weakened by hibernation); inhumane (killing a mother bear leaving her cubs orphaned); and disruptive to other forms of human recreation (birdwatchers looking for spring migrants or hikers just looking for signs of spring). We would do better to do more research on Maine bear population dynamics. How do populations differ region by region? What is the effect of bear baiting, which by offering food with a higher calorie content than their natural diet may contribute to increasing population as well as habituating bears to the scent of humans and their food. A more effective way to deal with the issue of nuisance bears might be campaigns to teach people to "Keep Wildlife Wild" and "Do Not Feed the Bears".

Sincerely,  
Wendy J. Kearney  
3 Myrtle Ave.  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609