

LaCroix, Linda

From: Tia S <Tia.40@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 9:02 AM
To: LaCroix, Linda
Subject: OPPOSE LD 337

Please OPPOSE the proposal to introduce a spring bear hunt in Maine, LD 337.

There is no justified, peer-reviewed scientific rationale for reducing Maine's bear population, and worse, to do so in the spring season is unbelievably inhumane.

A spring bear hunt will further harm the already highly tainted reputation of hunters, who struggle to maintain an ethical stance for hunting in and out of Maine. Please oppose any effort to allow unethical hunting in Maine, including killing mother and cub bears during their vulnerable seasons.

Killing a female bear in or away from the den while hunting for her family in the spring will allow cubs to literally starve to death or die from a lack of protection needed in their baby phases of life. Need I say more? Who would think this is a good idea? This is not okay and not "hunting". It is slaughter of our cherished Maine wildlife.

Maine is already infamous for its bear baiting, where people without ethics dump trash and pollute our precious woodlands and environment to draw bears (and many, many unintentional other species that often go unreported) to horrific traps that rip bears apart and make them suffer for hours or days on end - then hunters sit there and shoot the bears at point blank range (feet away, in the face).

Maine is also in controversy for allowing dogs to chase and kill bears in ways that are deeply disturbing and result in suffering or dead dogs, trespassing on private property without the landowners consent or against their will, and again, people kill bears without fair practice.

Just like coyotes which we have increased in numbers due to poor 'hunting' practices yet make them consistently suffer, there is now evidence that baiting boosts bear numbers and survival rates. Any argument that spring hunting will counter bear baiting and other human-caused increases in bear populations proves yet again that we are terrible at wildlife management, and this would make our poor, tax money wasting methods that much worse. We must not waste tax payer money or further suffer and harm our wildlife due to our own ignorance and poor practice.

Once MUST concede that if we are to allow a spring bear hunt (which we should not) we must also, at the exact same time, outlaw bear baiting, as one is in direct conflict with the other. There is NO defense for both, and no defense for either if we are to be honest, and serious, about wildlife 'management'.

Please do not further the already poor reputation of Maine's hunters. We need ethical hunting in this state to be furthered, and this would be yet another big step backwards.

Thank you. Tia Simon
Gorham, ME.