

LaCroix, Linda

From: James Fereira <jamesfereira@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 7:23 AM
To: LaCroix, Linda; IFW
Subject: Oppose LD 337

Dear Mr. Dill and IFW Committee Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 337. In my opinion, the breadth of the Maine bear hunting season is already adequate enough in helping to limit Maine's bear population. I see no justification to extend the hunting season to begin at an earlier time. The spring period is especially sensitive, as mother bears are starting to emerge from their dens with cubs. Simply from an ethical standpoint, it's incredulous to me that any state would allow bears to be hunted at this critical juncture in the life cycle. When mothers are killed, cubs will die from exposure and predation, or simply starve to death. There can be no justification for creating this circumstance.

Maine's archaic practice as the only US state which allows baiting, hounding and trapping of black bears artificially promotes increases in their survival rates, and therefore their numbers. Bears should not be punished for their natural instinct to survive because humans use unethical means to trick them, kill them and cause them unnecessary suffering. To then introduce an extended killing season based on something humans have implemented to cause their numbers to swell, is unconscionable. Black bears deserve a break. They should be free to live free from hunting threats in spring. We pretend to revere black bears, using them as a proud symbol of the State of Maine in tourism advertising and naming sports teams after them. But the truth is that we have little regard for them, lowering them to objects of our desire to kill.

Please oppose LD 337. It is bad for black bears and it is bad for Maine.

Sincerely,

James Fereira
Portland
Cumberland County

"Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom." - George S. Patton