

LaCroix, Linda

From: Kimmy Sophia Brown <kimbrown@worldcommunity.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 4:04 PM
To: IFW
Subject: LD 337 entitled "An Act To Start A Spring Bear Hunting Season "

Dear Members of the Maine Legislature,

I respectfully write as a concerned resident of Maine. Almost every time I drive anywhere in this state I find myself murmuring, "Beautiful Maine, beautiful Maine" at the landscape, because it is such an overwhelmingly beautiful place. The beauty of all the living beings we share this home with are as important as the human beings.

I would ask this legislative body, to put aside notions of money generated, and of any kind of human pleasure derived from the activity of hunting, in regard to the bill in question, LD 337.

Humane hunting for food is not in question here. But the disregard of the right of animals to live as families in their forest homeland, without fear of violence, suffering, and unnecessary death, is a moral issue for human beings.

I quote the well-known writer/farmer, Wendell Berry, from the introduction of his book, "This Day - Collected and New Sabbath Poems", on his thoughts about the use of the word 'wild' in regard to animals.

...."The longer I have lived and worked among the noncommercial creatures of the woods and fields, the less I have been able to conceive of them as "wild". They plainly are going about their own domestic lives, finding or making shelter, gathering food, minding their health, raising their young, always well-adapted to places. They are far better at domesticity than we industrial humans are. It became clear to me also they think of us as wild, and that they are right. We are the ones who are undomesticated, barbarous, unrestrained, disorderly, extravagant and out of control. They are our natural teachers, and we have learned too little from them. The woods itself, conventionally thought of as 'wild' in fact is thought of and used as *home* by the creatures who are domesticated within it."

I strongly urge our legislators to make laws with their hearts, and sense of right and wrong, and with their compassion. Let's protect the birthing time, in the springtime of the forest. Why create a hellish, fearful environment with the sound of guns and the noise of many who are not respectful of the nesting mothers and young? It is not just the bears who deserve our protection, but all of the inhabitants of the forest who will be disturbed and affected by it all. Let there be no collateral damage.

This idea is a very bad one and I pray that you all do the right thing and protect our wildlife.

I request that this letter be distributed to the members of the legislature.

Thank you,

Kimberly Brown
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Gray Maine