

LaCroix, Linda

From: Val Giguere <vgiguere@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 3:39 PM
To: LaCroix, Linda
Subject: Oppose LD 337

February 9, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge you to **OPPOSE LD 337**, Spring Bear Hunt.

The potential for hunters to kill mother bears while they are away from their cubs searching for food is far too great and risky to engage in this practice. This will leave cubs alone and defenseless having to fend for themselves without the skills to do so. This will more than likely end in terrible circumstances for the cubs.

Hunters mistake each other for wildlife they are pursuing, sometimes with fatal consequences. That doesn't inspire confidence that a hunter encountering a bear will have the presence of mind to discern whether or not they are killing a wandering mother or a male bear or if it would even be a consideration.

A spring bear hunt is horrific all the way around for females, males and babies. Maine already allows the most violent and unfair bear hunting practices (baiting, trapping and hounding). Proposing to create a system where bears virtually have no "safe" time to be free from harm is cruel and callous.

More violence towards bears when they are in a weakened and vulnerable condition is unacceptable.

Surely there are ways to co-exist with bears and other wildlife in safe ways in our communities that don't involve the blatant destruction of their lives and families. They are valuable and necessary members of our communities and are worth more thought and effort than just another killing season.

I urge you to **OPPOSE LD 337**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valerie Giguere
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