

LaCroix, Linda

From: Dana Rickman <drickman54@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 3:32 PM
To: LaCroix, Linda
Subject: Oppose LD 337

Ms. LaCroix,

Please share my comments below with the IF&W Legislative Committee. I oppose the proposed spring bear hunt for the following reasons:

- **It is ethically indefensible** to kill bears at a time they are emerging from their dens with their cubs.
- If a mother is shot while away from her cubs, cubs are left to die of starvation, predation, or exposure. There is evidence that **directives to hunters to spare mothers with cubs do not work because mothers often leave their youngest cubs to search for food without cubs in tow.**
- There is increasing evidence that baiting boosts bear numbers and survival rates. IF&W's website concedes, "Nutrition plays a major role in determining the number of cubs that are produced, and cub survival..." **It makes no sense to introduce a new season to reduce the bear population at the same time IF&W continues to allow massive, undocumented and unregulated baiting of bears with high-calorie foods,** which are likely a key factor in the growth of the bear population.
- The fall bear-hunting season is already nearly three months long. **Maine is the only state left in the nation to allow all three methods of killing bears – baiting, hounding, and trapping.** Adding a spring bear-hunting season would allow virtually no time for bears to live free from hunting threats.

I urge the committee to withhold recommendation that LD 337 proceed for further debate.

Thank you,

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