

LaCroix, Linda

From: Amanda Hull <amandahull11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 10:38 PM
To: IFW
Subject: Opposition to LD 337

To: Chairs Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau, and Members of the IFW Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 337, an act to create a spring bear hunt in Maine.

" We fear what we do not understand"

I ask that you put yourself and your families in the place(s) of the bears that could potentially be hunted this spring. Imagine the fear cubs feel as they watch the murder of their mother or the panic they feel when they are unable to find her. Just because we possess the "upper hand" or obtain more power doesn't give us as humans the right to take away another being's life.

I have worked with black bears in sanctuary settings and have encountered them in the wild. These creatures possess high intelligence and soulful attributes. Not only are bears essential for the well being of habitats, they are also great teachers to those who take the time to learn from them.

If we could learn anything from the black bear it would be to just exist. Education is essential in the peaceful coexistence of humans and black bears. The majority of people fear black bears because they don't know enough about them to fully understand them. As humans we need to take the time to educate ourselves and not act of ignorance or the feeling of having power over another living being.

Killing bears in the spring as they emerge from hibernation is fundamentally cruel. It will cause the death of new mothers, and could result in the deaths of their babies who are far too young to survive in this harsh environment alone. Nothing could justify the slow, painful, and completely avoidable deaths of bear cubs. If put forward, this law could lead to an abundance of such deaths. Maine is not prepared with the resources necessary to support those lucky cubs who will be found orphaned and needing sanctuary, medical care, and rehabilitation. The very idea of putting new mothers and their babies at such risk is repugnant, and not how the people of Maine want to see our wildlife treated.

Bears are already terrorized for months out of the year by a fall hunting season that allows them to be killed by rifle, shotgun, handgun, bow and arrow, crossbow, traps and hounds. If a spring bear hunt is created, bears will lose even more precious time to live their lives in peace with their families. If there is a concern about the growth in the black bear population, Maine should first consider ending the baiting of bears, which puts millions of pounds of easily accessible, high calorie foods into our woods every August. If this bill passes, Maine will become one of the most hostile environments for bears in the entire country. Only a handful of states allow a spring bear hunt. Maine should continue to keep company with states that prioritize the welfare of bears, and say no to this disastrous proposal.

The vast majority of Mainers are not hunters. While bear hunting is highly lucrative for some hunters and small business, their economic interests should not trump our ethical interests to keep Maine bears safe. Like humans,

bears are only given one life to live. Most Mainers chose not to engage in activities that end the lives of bears, and the committee should hear our call to end this proposal for a spring bear hunt immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hull
Kansas City, MO.