

## LaCroix, Linda

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**From:** Keith Riley <keithallenriley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2019 8:57 PM  
**To:** LaCroix, Linda  
**Subject:** Oppose LD 337

It is ethically indefensible to kill bears at the 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.

Please oppose LD 337!

Keith Riley, LCSW