

LaCroix, Linda

From: Jennifer Angelone <jeffiner@gwi.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 8:01 PM
To: LaCroix, Linda
Subject: Oppose LD 337

Dear Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

I urge you to oppose LD 337, an act which seeks to open a spring hunting season for black bears. Such a move would put both mother bears and cubs at risk, implement yet another unsporting method, and will not reduce conflicts with nuisance bears. I oppose the spring bear hunt for the following reasons:

- It is ethically indefensible to kill bears during the time period they are emerging from their dens with their cubs. Bears are physically stressed and in poor body condition after emerging from hibernation.
- 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.

Bear-resistant trash cans, hazing programs and other humane methods work better to solve problems with nuisance bears!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Angelone
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