

**LaCroix, Linda**

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**From:** Toni Broadhead <toni.broadhead@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** LaCroix, Linda  
**Subject:** Oppose LD 337

Committee Members,

We are writing to oppose LD 337, a proposal for a spring bear hunt that would allow hunters to hunt bears, when the animals are most vulnerable and just emerging from their dens with their cubs. When a mother is killed while foraging away from her cubs, those cubs are left to die of starvation, predation or exposure. The mere suggestion that this should be considered an acceptable risk is simply outrageous and inhumane.

We read this statement on the IF&W website "Nutrition plays a major role in determining the number of cubs that are produced, and cub survival" Yet, bear baiting, a largely unregulated activity supported by IF&W, endorses hunters uses high-calorie sugar rich foods for bait, while at the same time acknowledging that feeding or baiting bears (wildlife) artificially boosts populations and survival rates. The solution? An extended kill season. Why is IFW proposing and backing these conflicting "management" strategies? This proposal has nothing to do with sound wildlife management. This is supply and demand.

The fall bear-hunting season (baiting, hounding, and trapping.) is already nearly three months long. This proposed spring bear-hunting season leaves no time for Maine's bears, to live free from harassment and hunting threats and have just have some time to be bears...Please OPPOSE LD 337.

Thank you for your time...

Stephen and Toni Broadhead  
Cumberland Maine