



Connecticut Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association, Inc.

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*"A non-profit organization to promote general standards and ethics
within the nuisance wildlife control operators industry."*

SB 994 Comments by Jonathan D. Horne

President – Connecticut Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association, Inc.

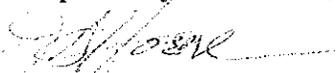
Connecticut Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association, Inc.(CTNWCOA) has a membership of seventy Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – Wildlife Division, licensed persons (CTNWCOs) that work throughout the State. We are opposed to SB 994 in that it will impair our ability to provide public safety and wellbeing. We service the public by removing wildlife that is of concern and/or a threat to the citizens of Connecticut. Various techniques are employed to accomplish this task and two of the methods of capture are foot hold and body gripping devices. To prohibit or limit the use of foot hold and body gripping devices would be detrimental to the best interest of the public in that certain species of animals can only effectively be caught by these devices. Coyotes are just one example of those animals where foot hold devices are appropriate. As I'm sure you are aware, coyotes are becoming a problem in urban, suburban, and farming communities. Coyotes are a vary animal that will refrain from entering a cage device but can be caught by a foot hold device. Should you question my statement I implore you to speak with officers in the Wildlife Division of the D.E.P., some of whom may be present here today.

To allay fears and dispel false beliefs that the foot hold and body gripping devices are inhumane I assure you that the foot hold devices of the 1800s are no longer in use and in fact are illegal for CTNWCOs to employ in their effort. They have been replaced with a padded rubber grip that secures the animal while not harming them or causing pain. If a CTNWCO was to find one of these antique devices and use it he would be arrested and prosecuted by the DEP and certainly lose his license and in so doing, forfeit his livelihood. I can also guaranty that the CTNWCO Association would endorse and support the D.E.P. action.

It is also important to note that Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators in our State are required to take a special course in the proper use of the foot hold devices and must demonstrate their proficiency in setting them to receive the certification of the Wildlife Division of the D.E.P..

Given all of the above it is reasonable and essential that SB 994 not be considered in that it is detrimental to public safety and welfare by removing a valued , efficient, and at times, the only effective method of capturing an animal that is considered a nuisance and/or danger.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jonathan D. Horne, President

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