

MARCH 6, 2012

Testimony presented to the SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

IN OPPOSITION to RAISED BILL 5324 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFETY BY RESTRICTING THE PLACEMENT OF LEGHOLD TRAPS.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and Select Committee members,

My name is Claude Garritt , I am a retired professional civil engineer and a founder in 1967 of The Connecticut Trappers Association. I speak in opposition to raised bill 5324 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFETY BY RESTRICTING THE PLACEMENT OF LEGHOLD TRAPS. I have been a licensed trapper since 1948 when I was ten years old.[a child].In other words I have been a Connecticut trapper for sixty four years.

In all those years I have never heard of a child being caught or injured by a leghold trap in Connecticut or anywhere for that matter.

WHY IS THAT ?

1. All trappers in Connecticut must take and successfully pass a certified trapping course administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection before they can obtain a Connecticut license.
2. The DEEP trapping regulations are among the most stringent of any state in the Union.
3. Trapping season occurs from November to March.
4. All traps must be set underwater with two exceptions.
5. Exception 1. A rubber padded trap may be set IN the burrow of an animal. Very few trappers ever use this method. If you would like to know why, please ask.
6. Exception 2. Coyote land trapping is authorized during December and January with rubber padded traps; provided the trapper has taken and passed a special land trapping course administered by Ct. DEEP and has obtained from a PRIVATE landowner of ten contiguous acres written specific permission to trap coyotes.
7. Most trappers are using traps that are not large enough to catch a child.
8. Most trappers employ good judgment and good common sense when trapping.

Based on the facts just mentioned there is no child safety problem with trapping in Connecticut

Therefore, I must come to the conclusion that this raised bill's purpose is not child safety, but that the authors had some other motive in mind.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time.