



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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March 22, 2013

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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106; Phone: (860) 240-0440

Re: OPPOSE bear hunting in HB 6654, AAC sportsmen related revisions to the general statutes

Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, and our members in Connecticut, I respectfully urge you to **OPPOSE** a provision within HB 6654 that would open a bear hunting season.

The HSUS stands in strong opposition to bear hunting due to the lack of any scientific rationale or necessity. The **exact bear population is unknown**; further, any bear population risk assessment would take several years to complete.

It is clear that the **Connecticut public will vigorously oppose a trophy bear hunt** as well. Last year, when a story ran in the Hartford Courant about rumors of a bear hunting season, our offices were flooded with calls from Connecticut residents in opposition to bear hunting.

Bear conflicts typically occur in residential areas, not where hunting takes place. Trying to manage conflicts in one place by killing bears in another is completely counter-productive -- and likely to result in orphaned cubs and much public outcry.

There are highly **effective and humane solutions** for managing bear conflicts, such as removing attractants (e.g., accessible garbage, bird feeders), or using proven aversive conditioning techniques to keep bears from areas they're not wanted. (Note: Initial aversive conditioning is usually done by trained professionals). Public education is the key to managing bear-human conflicts – killing bears is not the answer.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

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