

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this as my written testimony for the public hearing held on 3/8/13.

I write in **opposition to a provision in SB 1018** that would legalize the use of snares. After reading a great deal about the subject, I cannot fathom why with the advancement of technology, and bait contraceptives we should digress on this matter. I ask that you **keep snares illegal**.

We cannot look to the past, for the answers of the future. In fact by and large, this backwards thinking has **not solved** deer over population, or the coyote problem. As the number of hunters and trappers diminish (by 35 % in the last decade) and the population of problem animals increases, we will be forced to rethink **yesterday's methods**.

The use of snares is nothing more than kicking the can down the road. Using hunters and trappers to solve this problem is not working. **If it worked, we wouldn't be discussing these matters every single session.**

The truth is we may have saved money with this current model but we have **not solved the problem**.

I believe it's time we use the tools of the 21st century (contraceptive bait) which may cost more, but will pay for itself overtime in lack of highway accidents, and a great many other issues.

I urge you to look forward, and acknowledge that the current model of hunting, trapping, and now legalizing snares is not working. Populations continue to rise, and the number of hunters and trappers continue to diminish. It's a no win situation.

Please, **keep snares illegal**; please leave them in the past where they belong.

Very Sincerely,

Lori Nicholson

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