

FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Testimony presented to the CHILDREN COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION to COMMITTEE BILL 5566 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD
SAFETY BY RESTRICTING THE PLACEMENT OF LEGHOLD TRAPS.

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and Committee members,

My name is Claude Garritt , I am a retired professional civil engineer and one of the founders in 1967 of The Connecticut Trappers Association. I speak in opposition to committee bill 5566 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 five years.

In all those years I have never heard of a child being caught or injured by a foothold trap in Connecticut or anywhere in the nation for that matter,a fact that DEEP has confirmed in its testimony today.-

This bill has NOTHING to do with protecting children, it is just an attempt at a first step toward eliminating all trapping in Connecticut and therefore, has no business being put forth at a public hearing by the Children Committee.

The proposed change in Section 1. Section 26-72 (b) dealing with reporting of nontarget animal catches has absolutely NOTHING to do with child safety.

Further Section 1. Section 26-72 (c) proposes a 100 ft. restrictive distance, whether the restrictive distance is 1 ft., 100 ft., 750 ft. or 1500 ft. is of no consequence, since there is no record in Connecticut of any child being harmed by a foothold trap. Therefore, there is no need for any restrictive distance.

Who are the real experts in this matter? They are, DEEP and its professional wildlife biologists. A phone call or email communication with that agency would have put this issue to rest without raising a needless bill and wasting everyone's time and tax payers money. This committee has many important issues to resolve. This is not one of them.

When you vote on this bill, I ask every member of this committee to make an honest assessment on the facts presented here today not on the emotion.

In closing, I would like to paraphrase a statement made by a distinguished Connecticut General Assembly legislator, "This bill HB 5566 is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist".