

I vote Jackie Rojo. and these issues are important to me.

I oppose bear hunting (HB 6654) because:

- I treasure our state's black bears and do not want to see them hunted and orphaned by trophy hunters. Instead, I ask that you maintain protections for Connecticut's bears.
- Bear conflicts typically occur in residential areas, and 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.
- There is no scientific rationale or necessity for instituting a hunt. The exact bear population is unknown; further, any bear population risk assessment would take several years to complete.

Jackie

