

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

Please accept this as my testimony in **OPPOSITION to a provision within HB 6654**, AAC Sportsmen Related Revisions to the General Statutes. I oppose bear hunting because I honor Connecticut's wildlife (including black bears) and do not want to see them hunted and orphaned by trophy hunters. 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. If there are human/bear conflicts, there are highly **effective and humane solutions** for managing them, such as removing attractants (e.g., accessible garbage, bird feeders), or using proven aversive conditioning techniques to keep bears from areas they are not wanted. 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 in CT is not even known. Any bear population risk assessment would take several years to complete, so an introduction of bear hunting is very premature.

Please oppose this provision with HB 6654!

Thank you.

testimony submitted by:

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