

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

*Please accept this as my testimony (for public hearing held on 3/8/13) in OPPOSITION to a provision within SB 1018, AAC enforcement of environmental conservation laws. I oppose the provision that would legalize the use of snares for trapping, and as that you KEEP SNARE ILLEGAL.*

For many years, snares have been used throughout the country for hunting, capturing and killing of defenseless animals. Many others, hunters in particular, would disagree saying that snares are not cruel and should be completely legalized. The snares themselves is a wire noose that is triggered when an animal steps on it (or in it) and catches the animal in different places, depending on the type of snare and how the animal is standing. When the animal struggles and tries to get away, the snare tightens, which can be extremely painful and in some cases fatal.

Snares are laid on the ground, hidden so that the animal cannot see them, then when the animal steps on it, the snare is triggered. Automatically, as a response to the surprise, the animal is shocked and begins to struggle this causes the snare to tighten. Most people would say that this isn't meant to hurt the animal, but rather to get the animal to stop moving. However, the animal doesn't know what the snare is and therefore has the sense of fear. As fear progresses a reaction is to run or do whatever the animal can to get away; a panic response. This response not only happens in animals, but humans too. If a human is being held against will, and doesn't know what is going on, our automatic reaction is to retaliate and try to get away. Thus, the snare tightens on the animal, which can make the animal panic even more. The snare, depending where it is place, can possibly kill the animal by blocking blood or air flow and/or crushing organs (there are many more ways); all which leads to a long painful death to the animal.

Hunting is done throughout the country, in rural and urban areas where other animals live and can be threatened by the use of snares. When a person sets up a snare, they guess where to set it up based on statistics of what animals live there. The hunters although, do not know for sure what kind of animal they will catch. So, for example, a neighborhood dog can become a victim to the painful snare and can be severely hurt. The snare cannot tell the difference for a coyote to a pet dog, so therefore the snare potentially threatens any type of dog/pet that may be going for a walk or even a hike with the family.

Killing animals by the use of snares, and using snares in general is inhumane and needs to be stopped. The animal in a snare is a victim of pain and anguish for long exceeding periods of time and can be slowly killed. Snares not only pose a threat to wild animals, but domestic ones as well. If the snare is not illegal, there is no telling the amount of innocent, harmless animals that can be killed and in pain for days on end.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Lacie Dube

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