

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 ask that you KEEP SNARES ILLEGAL.

Audobon magazine (Sept 2002) described what snarers call “jellyheads”—snared animals with grotesquely swollen heads. From this article: “...**"jellyheads," the snarers call them.** When the snare doesn't close sufficiently, it constricts the jugular vein on the outside of the neck, cutting off blood returning to the heart; meanwhile, the carotid artery keeps pumping blood into the brain, eventually rupturing its vascular system. In a memo to his supervisor, Jakubas wrote: "I think it is also safe to say that [this] is an unpleasant death. Anyone who has had a migraine knows what it feels like to have swollen blood vessels in the head. To have blood vessels burst because of pressure must be excruciating." See article at: See article at:

<http://audubonmagazine.org/incite/incite0209.html>.

- For animals that survive, pressure from the wire ligature can damage cellular structures, which in turn can lead to necrosis of tissues (pressure necrosis) and ultimately death in the days following release.
- Snares are indiscriminate--non-target species can suffer in these devices. These snares cannot distinguish between coyotes and domestic dogs.

WRONG APPROACH: Trapping and killing coyotes doesn't resolve problems, as a number of communities that tried lethal control have found out. Coyotes from the surrounding area quickly replace those removed. Coyotes also have an adaptive reproductive response when hunted or trapped – they breed earlier, have larger litters, etc. – and their numbers quickly rebound, even when a large percentage of their population is removed. In one study, even after as much as 75% of the population was removed, coyote numbers rebounded back to pre-removal levels in a mere 8 months (E. Gese, 2005).

BETTER SOLUTIONS: Most problematic coyote behavior can be changed, long-term, by removing food attractants, “hazing” coyotes that have become too human-habituated or bold, using appropriate dog fencing, and not allowing pets to free-roam/ be unsupervised.

I OPPOSE THE USE OF THE “COLLARUM” OR ANY SIMILAR DEVICE. Contrary to its marketing claims, this product is NOT humane, and it is **INDISCRIMINATE**.

Thank You,
Yvonne A. Janssen
Thomas G. Murphy
635 Ruth Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606