Connecticut Department of

ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

August 2, 2013

Senator Andres Ayala
Representative Selim G. Noujaim
Regulations Review Committee, Room 1800
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Resubmit of Amendments to Hunting Regulations: Sections 26-16-3a, 26-27b-1, 26-48a-3, 26-48-7, 26-49-2, 26-52-1, 26-55-3, 26-66-1, 26-66-2, 26-66-3, 26-66-4, 26-66-5, 26-66-12, 26-66-14, 26-86a-1, 26-86a-2, 26-86a-4 and 26-86a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and the addition of new subsections 26-16-3a(g), 26-55-3(g), 26-55-3(h), 26-66-14(d), 26-86a-2(i), 26-86a-4(b) and 26-86a-4(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Dear Senator Ayala and Representative Noujaim:

Pursuant to section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I resubmit the enclosed proposed hunting and trapping regulations for your consideration and approval. The Legislative Regulations Review Committee had rejected without prejudice the proposed regulations at the July meeting. We have made the changes as recommended by the Legislative Commissioner's Office and the Attorney General's Office has reviewed and agrees with the revisions.

The proposed regulations amend the existing regulations to: allow DEEP to close portions of wildlife management areas to mountain biking by posting of signs when necessary; adjust the Migratory Bird Stamp fee and validation dates to be consistent with CGS 26-27b and accommodate the automated licensing system; adjust the Harvest Information Permit (HIP) fee to be consistent with CGS 26-48a and changes in issuing procedures; change procedures for tagging game birds taken at regulated private shooting preserves, dog training areas and shooting field trials and eliminate agency-supplied tags for those activities; adjust shooting field trial permit fees to be consistent with CGS 26-52; add a possession limit on snapping turtles and spotted turtles; allow use of crossbow equipment for hunting, remove obsolete specifications for crossbow arrows and amend the definition of a loaded crossbow to be consistent with CGS 53a-217e(2); exempt coyote or fox hunters from the fluorescent orange clothing requirement except during the firearms deer or fall firearms turkey seasons; remove restrictions on the use of crossbows on state-owned lands; shorten the two-week hunting closure in October and allow coyote hunting during the closed period; extend the hunting closure during the spring turkey season for consistency with season extension; remove redundant language regarding minimum distances between waterfowl hunting parties; adjust the regulated crow season; provide alternative methods for reporting coyote or fox taken by hunting; increase youth turkey hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land; adds crossbows to list of bow and arrow equipment used for turkey hunting; allow dogs to be used for hunting

turkeys during the fall firearms season on private lands; make technical changes to scientific nomenclature for Wood Turtles and provide protection for Spotted Turtles; establish seasons, bag limits, legal methods and gear restrictions for the taking of Snapping Turtles; add muzzleloaders to the list of hunting implements in reference to mandatory deer check station requirements; clarify the provision regarding the issuance of firearms permits on state-owned lands; clarify provision regarding issuance of replacement antlerless deer tags and make provisions for such tags on designated state lands when required to meet management objectives; allow use of muzzleloaders during the shotgun/rifle deer season; remove the three shell limitation for shotgun deer hunting on private lands and add electronic ignition muzzleloaders for the purpose of defining a loaded firearm; and increase youth deer hunter training opportunities from two days to seven days on state and private land.

If there are any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Robert LaFrance, the Department's Legislative Liaison at Robert.lafrance@ct.gov or 860-424-3401. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner

cc: Robert LaFrance
DCE/WAH/eh
Enclosure