



**Testimony in support for HB 5315 AAC THE PREVENTION OF THE HABITUATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS, THE POSTING OF INFORMATIONAL NOTICES CONCERNING ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE AND THE STATUS OF SNAPPING TURTLES UNDER STATE LAW.**

**Environment Committee, February 24, 2016**

**Amy Harrell, President, CT Votes for Animals  
Residence: Vernon, CT**

Senator Kennedy, Rep. Albis, other leaders and members of the Environment Committee, I would like to express support on behalf of Connecticut Votes for Animals, for HB 5315, which would prevent the habituation of bears and other wildlife.

I strongly support this pro-active approach to providing much-needed education for the general public on how to manage and reduce their interactions with bears and other wildlife. Signage and education, while requiring some upfront costs, will undoubtedly save DEEP staff time in relocating bears, or addressing the problems that arise from bears that have become “too curious.”

In a state where human vs. bear conflicts appear to be rising, I believe our efforts should focus on promoting wildlife awareness among Connecticut residents whose property is adjacent to bear territory, and among those enjoying recreation in our parks. An early investment in shaping public attitude toward bears will protect bears by allowing them to remain wild and will also keep people safe from harm.

Connecticut Votes for Animals represents thousands of members in Connecticut, who care about animals, their safety, and their community. I strongly urge you to please support the passage of HB 5315.

Thank you,  
Amy Harrell

