

Subject: Raised H.B. No. 5315 to prohibit commerce in snapping turtles

We urge you to pass this bill. Until there have been studies that tell us about the population of snapping turtles in Connecticut, and whether or not we can continue to afford to lose large numbers of them, we oppose any commercial trapping of these ancient creatures. They are part of our ecosystem. Bans in other states on commercial trapping of snapping turtles make Connecticut turtles even more vulnerable.

As Aldo Leopold, the prominent 20th century expert in forestry, ecology, and game management, wrote:

no special interest has the right to exterminate them (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds) for the sake of a benefit, real or fancied, to itself ... A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.