

Testimony for **5315** - An Act concerning 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 2/24/16

Karen Laski, Board member, Connecticut Votes for Animals

After working at Manchester High School for 25 years, I realize the importance of education in our lives so I am highly in favor of the environment committee bill to use informational notices to give people a chance to use good judgement when it comes to living with bears. Most people in Connecticut will be relieved that informing people about encounters with bears has been chosen over lethal means. CT residents are devastated when the news reports that bears have been killed in wildlife areas or in our neighborhoods. None of us want any more killing or for hunting to be approved.

Statistics show that bears don't show a significant threat to us and I also think bears have been quite kind to us considering how we have encroached on their territory. This bill represents a well thought out, considerate approach to co-existing with bears. Thank you for that.

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