

Dear Legislators,

Please support Raised H.B. No. 5315.

The Mattabeseck Audubon Society (Middlesex County) is strongly in favor of legislation prohibiting the trapping of all turtles, including Snapping Turtles, in the State of Connecticut.

The Snapping Turtle is a long-lived species that reaches reproductive maturity later in life, particularly in northern populations, and has low reproductive and survival rates. An important U.S. Forest Report states that the, "northern population of Snapping Turtles cannot sustain even minimal exploitation by humans."

New York wisely prohibits the trapping of turtles. Should not Connecticut show this wisdom as well? The best case scenario would be if all turtle trapping were to be banned in Connecticut.

It is horrendous to think of the taking of 4500 mature Snapping Turtles for slaughter and sale each year, primarily to Asian markets. It is cruel to do this, and adversely impacts the balance of nature. All of our turtles should be protected and conserved, not wiped out.

Our own CT Council on Environmental Quality has determined that turtles are excellent indicators of ecological health. Let us take care of them.

Respectfully submitted,
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