

Feb 23, 2016

TO: Members of the Environment Committee

FROM: Rebecca MacLachlan

RE: Raised Bill no. 5315

Please support Bill 5315 and protect the snapping turtle.

Asian countries prize turtles for food, and the result has been the near-extinction of turtles in Asian countries. Consequently there is now a huge market for turtles being exported from the U.S.

Since 2011, approximately 12 to 20 million turtles per year have been shipped to Asia and their population has been drastically reduced because of this and the large amount of trapping.

Snapping turtles play an important part in maintaining the ecosystem. They consume insects and snakes, invasive plants, and occasionally the young of some water fowl.

It is vitally important to Connecticut's enlightened wildlife management and its ecology that snapping turtles be included among the animals protected from commercial exploitation before we further affect their dwindling numbers.

**I strongly urge you to support Raised Bill 5315.**