

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

Testimony for bills scheduled for the March 9, 2018 hearing:

OPPOSE HB 5358: I am against the hunting of Connecticut's small bear population.

This is a bill that caters to a small group of people who take pleasure in ending lives and prefer to resolve conflict with violence rather than learn to coexist.

It's interesting that this bill focuses on one part of the state, unlike the bill introduced last session. From what I understand, people in Litchfield County love bears and are against bear hunting. I have heard many people say bears and other wildlife are the reason why they live in that part of the state. In general, there are more people who are interested in viewing wild animals than killing them. I, for one, would love to see bears in southeastern Connecticut.

Educating the public on how to avoid conflict and coexist with bears is what we need – not more killing. Passing this bill will send the message that intolerance, hate, and violence against others is acceptable. We need a culture of coexistence(1) and killing is not coexisting.

OPPOSE HB 5366: I am against any expansion of Sunday hunting.

This is a bill that caters to a small group of people who take pleasure in ending lives. Bow hunting is especially cruel. Imagine being shot with an arrow. Does this sound at all appealing and like an ideal way to be killed? If the response is 'no,' then no one should be inflicting this pain on anyone else. And for those who complain that they have no opportunities to kill Monday through Saturday due to job constraints, if killing is so important then they can do it on a vacation day.

OPPOSE SB 348: I am against the night hunting of coyotes.

This is a bill that caters to a small group of people who take pleasure in ending lives and prefer to resolve conflict with violence rather than learn to coexist.

I am against any hunting of coyotes and any laws should focus on ending hunting, not expanding. Coyotes are beautiful, non-threatening animals who mate for life and play an important role in balancing the ecosystem.

Expanding opportunities to hunt coyotes will not control coyote populations and will not reduce human-coyote conflicts(2). I do find it curious that this bill says, "similar to raccoon and opossum hunting." Coyotes eat raccoons. Maybe if people stop killing raccoons the coyotes will be less likely to look for alternative food sources.

In addition to ending coyote hunting, all night hunting should be abolished. Nothing ruins a beautiful evening more than hearing gunshots. It's stressful enough having to hear gunshots during the day. I do not want to hear more gunshots at night.

Educating the public on how to avoid conflict, be responsible pet guardians, and coexist with coyotes is what we need – not more killing. Passing this bill will send the message that intolerance, hate, and violence against others is acceptable. We need a culture of coexistence(1) and killing is not coexisting.

SUPPORT HB 5355: I am in favor of protections for dogs during extreme weather conditions.

Protective cover must be available to dogs during periods of both extreme hot and cold weather. By defining “adequate shelter” and requiring that shelter is available to dogs whether tethered or confined in the yard, this legislation gives local Animal Control Officers greater authority to intervene when dogs are not properly protected.

HB 5354: In no way, shape, or form should turtles be bought and sold. No exceptions. Subsections b and c should be removed.

HB 5364: Bill should be amended to apply to all of coastal Connecticut. There is no reason for anyone to ‘harvest’ horseshoe crabs, by hand or any other method.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Susan Armknecht, Connecticut Voter
21 Elm St
Groton, CT

- 1) www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/rather-than-kill-animals-softly-dont-kill-them_us_58b6ec57e4b0e5fdf6197950
- 2) www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-killing-coyotes-doesn-t-make-livestock-safer/