Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee I am a resident of Connecticut, and I am urgently asking the Committee to oppose SB244 and support HB 5293, with an amendment.
SB 244 as written will promote a dangerous expansion to killing wildlife under the guise of protecting crops. The bill opens the door to killing any species twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year creating a public safety hazard and turning CT into a wildlife shooting range. What is needed is a comprehensive and consistent public education program that teaches how to effectively protect agricultural crops, livestock and personal property. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection already has the authority to remove and kill wildlife that damages property. This authority coupled with a comprehensive education program is what is needed.
I want to thank the Committee for raising HB 5293, Prohibiting the Use of Wild and Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts. This bill provides needed protection for certain animals such as camels, elephants and tigers, by removing them from traveling entertainment shows such as circuses. It has been well documented those animals are trained using inhumane practices, forced to perform tricks and acts not natural to them and have little or no protection in existing laws. Also please support an amendment on line 33 to remove “includes any animal that is not domesticated”. Some exhibitors will use that language as a loophole to exclude from the bill’s scope wild animals bred, born or raised in captivity.
I urge the Committee to please oppose SB 244 and support HB 5293 with an amendment.
Thank you,

Frascatore John
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