

To Whom it may concern: Please accept this email as my strong opposition to S.258.

-The current system works and does a great job of managing game and furbearing species through an iterative and inclusive process.

-We currently have a 14 person board capable of setting regulation. A board that includes diverse viewpoints with a common thread of actual in-the-field experience with these activities. This board is informed by biologists from the department in a symbiotic relationship where board members who engage in the activities are able to inform biologists about the mechanical aspects, and the biologist are able to inform the board on the science. They have a mutual respect for each other and it shows in the history of decisions made through this mechanism and the positive outcomes for Vermonters and our wildlife. Placing all authority for such intricate decisions with a commissioner, a single person, could lead to wildlife being managed politically to either extreme.

Gene Lyman