



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Representative David L. Deen, Chair
House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources
Vermont State House, Room 47
Montpelier, VT 05641

Dear Chairman Deen and Members of the Vermont House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources,

On behalf of Born Free USA and our Vermont members, I would like to express my firm support for H. 460, which will phase in a prohibition on lead ammunition for hunting purposes.

Lead has been widely recognized as a toxin for more than 2,000 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that there is no safe level of lead exposure for humans. While lead has been banned in almost all products, from toys to paint, it is still widely used in the hunting industry.

Lead left behind in spent ammunition poses a serious threat to birds and other wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Exposure to lead can occur through contaminated air, water, soil, and food. Animals suffering from lead poisoning endure a long, painful death, often involving emaciation, paralysis, and organ failure. Moreover, lead ammunition in felled wildlife is often consumed by other animals and passed along the food chain.

With viable alternatives to lead ammunition widely available, there is no justification for allowing our environment to be littered with toxic lead shot. I hope that you and the members of the Committee will support this important piece of legislation, and that H. 460 swiftly passes the Vermont legislature.

Sincerely,

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