

Good Evening All,

My name is Alan Therrien, I am a resident of Huntington and I am writing to express my concerns about S.258. I am an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and angler, and I firmly believe that the implications of S.258 pose a significant threat to Vermont's sporting community and our state's wildlife. My main concerns are outlined below.

- This bill eliminates the authority of the Fish and Wildlife board and gives that power to an appointed commissioner. This alteration, I fear, would subject Vermont's F&W regulations to the unpredictable sway of political agendas, potentially resulting in detrimental and unwarranted changes following elections and new appointments.
- The existing framework has demonstrated a history of effectively managing Vermont's wildlife and I believe S.258 would jeopardize that. The bill is proposing a complete overhaul of this system in attempts to address perceived problems by those against the hunting, fishing, and trapping community. The current format welcomes the input of all interested parties, including the science-based recommendations from F&W biologists. However, by consolidating power in the hands of a single authority, we risk stifling the opinions of these experts, hindering their ability to contribute to informed decision-making without fear of repercussions from their supervisor.
- Hunters, anglers, and trappers serve a large role in setting regulations because they fund the large majority of the department's budget between license sales and taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. No other user group is required to contribute to a similar fund in order to utilize it, even though other users have a significant impact on wildlife and habitat.

If S2.58 were to pass there is a clear intent to limit the future opportunities for hunting, fishing, and trapping in Vermont even though these activities are specifically protected in Vermont's constitution. Let's ensure the preservation of Vermont's rich outdoor heritage and the sustainable management of our wildlife resources. I'm happy to discuss any of these points or other concerns surrounding S.258 at your convenience.

Thank you,  
Alan Therrien