

Public Comments on H.190

March 22-26, 2019

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:21 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>; Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Support H.190

Dear Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Committee,

I am writing to you today, in regards to you to support bill H.190. I feel that VT F&W does not listen to all of the constituents in our state and this needs to be updated. The animals in our woods belong to all of us, not just to those that want to kill them. Wildlife plays a big role in our state of Vermont and not all that enjoy wildlife come to hunt, but maybe to observe and do photography. Hunting is and will always be also a big part of Vermont heritage, that will not change. What should change, is giving voice to all that want to participate in our wildlife activities. I feel like VT F&W has ignored people like myself and some of the science when making decisions about wildlife. We need more diversity on the board, not just hunters and trappers. Please consider supporting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Anne Macklin

Richmond VT

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:42 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Vermont needs Bill H.190

Good morning,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to set a hearing for bill H.190, to seeks reform to the Fish & Wildlife governance model. The current approach to wildlife "management" is outdated, lacks any kind of grounding in science, and supports small special interest groups, rather than most Vermonters. For those of us who value our special place, we are frustrated that the Governor continues to appoint hunters and trappers only, with no accountability or transparency. I encourage you to support hearings for this bill, which aims to include the full range of wildlife values and public voices in wildlife decision-making, not just those of trappers/hunters/anglers; bring trapping and hunting laws and regulations into alignment with contemporary conservation principles; and create new and sustainable funding for wildlife conservation at the VT Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

As a development professional, I'm offering my services, pro bono, to help the State develop a campaign for acquiring long-term financial support for this new model, and I know many Vermonters with the capacity to give would find this a very appealing campaign to support.

Thanks,
Janice Nadworny
Hinesburg, VT

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:40 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H190

Dear Laura,

My name is Jen Haas and I reside in Lowell, VT. I want to express my support for bill H190 and encourage you to hold hearings on this bill during this legislative session. Thank you and please share this email with the entire Fish and a Wildlife Committee.

Sincerely, Jen Haas

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:16 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H 190

Please, please, please hold a hearing and STOP the insanity. Vermont already has a reputation for cruelty to animals and killing for killing sake.....because somebody thinks killing is fun....has GOT to stop! Hunting for food is one thing; killing just to kill is SICK. Do we really want to continue to advance the cause of creating little Jeffery Dahmers? That's how it begins. Vermonters seem so immune to killing at this point, we now are promoting infanticide. Our fair state is getting a horrid reputation. That, along with the call for gun control.....people...especially the young...see how horrid some Vermonters treat animals. That is part of the call. Hunters are part of the reason there is even a call for gun control. They need to smarten up. No more wasteful killing because killing gives somebody a thrill.

Anne Hilliard
Milton VT 05468

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: sheldon@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Support for H190

Dear House Fish Wildlife and Water Committee:

I am writing to encourage you to hold a hearing on H. 190, a bill to expand the Fish & Wildlife Department Board to be inclusive of Vermonters. For too long there has been one main voice from the Board, the voice of consumptive users (hunters, trappers and anglers). Consumptive users are a small percentage of the overall Vermont population, but wield enormous power over wildlife and even private property (e.g. recent incident of coyote hunters destroying private property and traumatizing children, but game wardens claim no laws were broken).

The Fish and Wildlife Department and Governor Scott support the current structure claiming that the board only makes rules about hunting, fishing and trapping. This narrow view of wildlife management is a thing of the past. Decisions made about one species affects other animals, habitats and even diseases like Lyme. Knowledge of how to kill animals (e.g. hunting and trapping) doesn't give you any special understanding of the systems dynamics of the forest biodiversity. Expertise beyond consumptive use would also lead to more knowledgeable deliberations. Further, diversity in decision making has shown to result in better decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Cameron

Burlington, Vermont

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:37 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Barbara Rachelson <barbara.rachelson@gmail.com>

Subject: Bill H. 190

Dear Laura

Bill H. 190 has missed the crossover deadline yet there is still time to hold a hearing and I ask that you do this. The members on the fish and wildlife board are all men and hunters. There is not one person that represents my wants and needs for enjoyment of Vermont wildlife. This board has a lot of power affecting bobcats, bears and our dwindling moose population and reports to no one. They do not represent my views on bag limits ,seasons and other activities that affect Vermont's wildlife. What qualifications do the board members have that makes them the right choice to be on the board. Could there be a conflict of interest if every member is a hunter? Why are not the majority of Vermonters interests that differ then hunters represented? I believe that Vermont has ignored my voice as a wildlife advocate .

H.190 would establish a collaborative board to find long term solutions to ensure wildlife is protected for our generations enjoyment.

It is important to me that this bill, H.190 be brought forward for a hearing.

Thank you
Respectfully Submitted
Lisa J Raffael
Burlington, VT 05401

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:12 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Please hold hearing on H.190 and allow for a more balanced and fair approach to OUR wildlife and its treatment and preservation.

Vermont's wildlife belongs to us all and not a small fraction of the trapping and kill for fun population.

Respectfully,
Kip Ross -Vermont resident and tax payer
Hyde Park, VT 05655

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H190

Good morning
I am a 330 acre landowner in Morrisville. I am urging you to hold a hearing before the end of this legislative session regarding wanton waste - bill H 190. It has always been wrong for killing any animal that is not for the sole purpose of feeding your family.

Thanks for your time.
Sharon Rowell
Morrisville

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Dear Laura and Amy,

I am writing to ask: can you please hold a hearing on H.190, the bill that would bring much-needed reform to wildlife governance? My family and I find this very important--and thanks for introducing it, Amy.

Thank you,

Marc Beaudette

Rachel Navaro

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:57 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Please hold a hearing on H.190

Dear Committee Assistant Laura Bozarth,

Please hold a hearing on H.190 which seeks to reform the governance and funding of wildlife.

I'm a 77-year-old lifelong Vermonter whose opinions on wildlife have been drowned out by a minority of hunters and trappers my whole life.

It's about time that tax paying citizens like me have a say in the way wildlife issues are handled in our state.

Please schedule a hearing on H.190.

Thank you,

Mrs. Monica Farrington

South Burlington, VT 05403

cc: Committee Chair Amy Sheldon

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:46 AM

To: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Please hold a hearing for H.190

Dear Representative Sheldon and Ms. Bozarth,

I am writing to request that you hold hearings on H.190 to allow for discussion on the issue of the composition of the Fish & Wildlife board. As the Governor's recent appointments indicate, he is tone deaf on this issue and refuses to acknowledge the needs of the majority of Vermonters who support an approach oriented towards conservation, not hunting and trapping.

I want to thank Rep. Sheldon for her sponsorship of H.190 and for helping to bring the issue to light and into discussion.

Sincerely,
Barbara Felitti
Huntington, VT

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:15 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>; Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Please insure H.190 gets a hearing!

Dear Representatives Bozarth & Sheldon:

I am writing to urge you to please use your authority and responsibility as lawmakers **to insure H.190 gets a hearing this legislative session.** H.190 would address the non-representative nature of the House Fish & Wildlife governance structure.

Despite data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicating that since 2006 the number of **Vermonters** identifying as wildlife watchers has increased to 86 percent of the population (compared to 11.5 percent of the population who identify as hunters), the House F&W Committee continues to consist of people who describe themselves as "avid hunters" and who are more invested in protecting Vermont traditions than in representing the Vermonters they are supposed to serve.

Although many hunters do care about conservation and animal welfare, our House F&W Committee does not prioritize these issues above "tradition". This is perhaps best evidenced by Commissioner Louis Porter's recent argument against H.357, which would ban the practice of wanton waste - a practice that has long been determined harmful to a variety of wildlife species, and which is banned by tribal groups that rely on hunting for survival. Arguably, **Porter and others on the House F&F Committee have a serious conflict of interest** in making important decisions regarding the wildlife that is part of Vermont's ecology - not simply part of their beloved "sport". **It's surprising that such an important Committee could be so hopelessly biased in favor of those who comprise it.**

Please, do something.

Thank you for your service to Vermont.

Gina Mireault
Waterbury Center

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 6:43 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Request hearing on H190

Hi Laura ~
We write to request that the House Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Committee hold a hearing re H190 as soon as one can be arranged.
Thank you,

Susan Burns
Middlebury

Michele and Van Vail
Middlebury

Bob and Bev Leslie
Middlebury

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:35 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Fwd: Hearing for H.190

> Dear Laura Bozarth and Amy Sheldon,
> I am writing to voice my support for H.190 and ask that the House Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Committee hold a hearing on H. 190.
> Thank you very much for your time and attention regarding this matter.
>
> Respectfully yours,
> Donna Goldberg
> Vershire, Vermont

From: Kalla Robb
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:08 PM
To: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Please keep fish and wildlife governed the way it is.

Thank you

From: matt mckearney
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:06 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>; Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Please keep F&W governed the way it is.

Thank you

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: asheldon@leg.state.vt.gov
Subject: H.190

Ms Bozarth,

This bill(H.190) is especially important to Vermonters who want to reform the Fish and Wildlife governance model. Vermont needs to hear from all stake holders when deciding F&W policies not just hunters and trappers.

I hope the House Fish & Wildlife Committee will set a hearing for this bill.

Thank you,
Marilyn Dupre
Underhill, Vermont

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H. 190

Dear Laura,

I am writing in support of conducting hearings on H.190, a bill designed to reform Vermont's Wildlife Governance and Funding. I request that you share my thoughts with the full committee.

I support this legislation because I am concerned that animals are being hunted and killed in Vermont for the recreational entertainment of the hunter. I believe this behavior should be discouraged via regulations on the killing of all wild creatures. H.190 would create a working group that would better represent the population of the state.

Thank you,

Barbara Johnson
Shelburne, Vermont

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H 190 Reform Vermont's Wildlife Governance and Funding

The wildlife of Vermont belong to all Vermonters not just hunters, trappers and fishermen. The mission statement of the Fish and Wildlife department states that wildlife will be managed for the benefit of all citizens. In spite of this, participation in the actual governance of the Fish and Wildlife Department is limited to hunters, trappers and fishermen. Please pass this bill that would open up the board to all Vermonters, bring sound conservation science into the discussions and expand funding options on to the full committee.

Thank you,

Pamela Towne

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H190

Please schedule hearings on H190 this session. Those of us concerned about wildlife issues would really like our voices to be heard along with the hunters and trappers. Thank you very much. Susan Fowler

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Bill H.190 hearings

Please push for the hearings asap on Bill H 190, and share my request with the rest of the Committee.
I feel quite strongly about this.

Thanks !

Ann Milovsoroff FASLA, FCSLA
Shelburne resident

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Bill H.190

Good afternoon,

Please allow hearings on H.190 to move forward. It is crucial for the Fish and Wildlife Committee to listen to all Vermonters not just the trappers, hunters and anglers of Vermont on issues of wildlife management. It is long past time that other voices are heard on the issues of wildlife governance in Vermont. Those of us that are not hunters but have a great love and application for the wildlife of our state need to have our voices, our concerns heard and incorporated into the management of wildlife.

I'm a life long Vermonter that has acted on my concerns for wildlife though volunteer work that I have done over the years. I worked for Jim Andrews doing amphibian research for three years in Ward Marsh in West Haven and also was subcontracted by him to establish the range of five-lined skinks. I monitored the 2nd successful Bald Eagle nest in Vermont for several years and watched 7 young fledge successfully. I volunteered with the relocation of rattlesnakes for several years and was on call in my community to take black rat snakes to safety away from humans that endangered their lives.

I have also been a Selectboard member of my home town of Benson for 6 years and on our planning commission for 14 years where I did my best to protect and improve wildlife habitat in our area. I also was a trustee of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont and the Poultney Mettowee NRCD and helped with the cooperated effort of establishing the native plant nursery for ecological restoration work in the Southern Lake Champlain region. I have worked with Audubon at maintaining the proper conditions for golden-winged warblers and supplied them with sightings on property that we own. Non hunters like me need to our values and concerns on wildlife management heard. The creation of a working group of legislators created by bill H. 190 will end the strangle hold that hunters have over wildlife management.

Please share this email with the full committee.

Sincerely,

David Fedor-Cunningham
Benson, Vermont
802 537-4461

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Please hold hearings on H.190. A working group seriously needs to study how FWD operates and is funded. FWD is out of date in many ways, and funding is threatened by the current scheme. FWB is a rogue entity, and needs to be brought under control.

Craig Coleman

Springfield

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:53 PM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: help

We need bill H.190. Please do what you can to help. And share my concern.

thank you,

mary ann young

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:32 PM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H.190

Dear Laura Bozarth,

Please share my email with the full committee. TU.

I am respectfully asking the House Fish & Wildlife Committee to discuss and conduct hearings on H.190.

I am acutely aware that only sportsmen and sportswomen are on the Fish and Wildlife Board.

The Board does not represent all Vermonters and that is not democratic or fair.

Sincerely,

Judith Macdonald

Braintree, VT 05060

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:24 PM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASHeldon@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H.190

To Committee Assistant Bozarth:

I write to ask that the House Fish and Wildlife Committee conduct hearings on H.190--Reforming Vermont's Wildlife Funding and Governance. The time has come for all Vermonters to be represented in wildlife management and decision-making at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, because we are all

impacted by the outcomes. Having a board that is made up entirely of hunters and trappers is nonsensical because it is not representative of all Vermonters. Hunters and trappers are a small minority, but they have a disproportionate power to make decisions that affect all of us.

Please strongly consider this bill--the change is needed.

Lesley G. Huston
Waltham, VT

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Hearings on H.190

Please encourage hearings on Bill H.190. As it stands, the only voices heard or given any regard are those of hunters. We all have a stake in Vermont's wildlife. It's not just a commodity for hunters and fishermen to consume.