

From: Colleen Schuster
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:30 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

I am writing to you to ask that you conduct hearings on H.190. According to recent statistics, resident hunting license sales have decreased by 56 percent, resident trapping licenses sales have decreased by 43 percent, and resident fishing license sales have decreased by 23 percent since 1985. By contrast, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data indicates that since 2006 the number of Vermonters identifying as wildlife watchers has increased to 86 percent of the population. This compares to 11.5 percent of the population who now identify as hunters. Based on this data, it makes sense that a legislative working group be established to review and make recommendations about wildlife governance in Vermont.

It is important that long-term solutions to ensure our state's wildlife are protected for future generations. Recent trends in expenditures and revenue sources for Vermont's wildlife programs and the types of wildlife activities most common in the state need to be reevaluated. These are affected by the shifting demographics and changing cultural attitudes on fish and wildlife conservation efforts in Vermont. There needs to be broader representation to ensure fish and wildlife conservation remains relevant and supported by the general public, including changes to the authority and structure of the Fish and Wildlife Board. Also, improvements to Vermont hunting, trapping and fishing laws and regulations to bring them into alignment with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and 21st century wildlife governance principles should be considered, and alternate, long-term, sustainable revenue streams for FWD wildlife conservation activities need to align revenue with DFW program activities.

I would like to see the interests of everyone represented when it comes to wildlife in our state. It's important to look at the statistics and the science when considering new ways of looking at wildlife management that is current, humane and sustainable. Establishing a legislative working group could help accomplish this task.

Thank you for all the work you do.

Sincerely,

Colleen Schuster

From: Joanna Ralston
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Please support hearings for H.190

Dear Laura and Amy,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to conduct hearings on H.190, the bill that would establish a legislative working group to review and make recommendations about wildlife governance in Vermont.

I am concerned about the way we treat the wildlife that shares our environment. I want to know we are moving forward with regulations that reflect contemporary cultural values and conservation principles. It's time to let the public have a voice, and not just the hunters and anglers that influence the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I appreciate your help in this matter. Please share this email with the full committee.

Sincerely,

Joannah Ralston

Shelburne, VT 05482

From: Jim White <jimbylakec@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:11 PM

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

Subject: H.190

Dear Representative Sheldon,

We want to express our disappointment to the Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Committee that H.190 has seen no action this session. We understand that the Committee has been very busy with Act 250 hearings, which are unquestionably important, but surely there is time for other real priorities. We consider H.190 to be a real priority. There is a funding and management crisis at the Department of Fish and Wildlife that needs to be addressed in a thoughtful, non-confrontational way. This bill is the avenue. Please try to find a way to include it in the legislative process in this first year of the biennium.

Thank you,

Jim White and Joy Congdon

Shelburne, VT

From: Jessica

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:06 PM

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 Laura,

I am urging you to please make time in the committee's schedule to hold a hearing on H. 190. Views and attitudes toward hunting and wildlife management are changing and it is truly important that our state's wildlife governance reflect the landscape accurately. Thank you—the conversation can only start with this committee!

Jessica

Jessica Danyow

Executive Director

Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society

Middlebury, VT 05753

From: Rob and Linda Libby
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 2:10 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H190

I am writing to encourage the legislature to consider the bills regarding wildlife protection. My husband and I are 2 Vermonters who love viewing, photography and interaction with creatures who live in our woods. Hunting and fishing are respected activities for sport and food, but do need oversight to prevent animal cruelty. Trapping is inhumane in my opinion and while I cannot support it, I recognize that some make their living this way.

I encourage you to take a brave stance against the lobbying and speak for the creatures who cannot speak for themselves. There are many taxpayers and voters who agree with this position. Thank you.

Linda Libby

Albany Vermont

From: Lindzey Beal
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 11:02 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190

Dear House Fish and Wildlife Committee,

I would like to show my support for bill H.190: Reforming Vermont's Wildlife Funding and Governance.

This bill is long overdue and crucial to allow for more equal voices when forming wildlife management decisions and to create more ethical, updated and responsible wildlife choices.

H.190 would make a great deal of difference in allowing the public to have a voice in Vermont wildlife matters, NOT only trappers/hunters/anglers. The unfairness needs to end.

Thank you for your time and please email what I have shared with you with the committee.

Lindzey Beal

Wolcott, VT

From: Lisa von Kann <

Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 12:34 PM

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

Subject: H.190 - Reforming Vermont's Wildlife Funding and Governance

Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee Members:

I am writing to ask you to consider supporting H.190. As a Vermonter of many generations I have always thought highly of the Fish and Wildlife Agency and appreciated how carefully and thoughtfully they manage Vermont's wonderful wildlife for both hunters and observers of these animals and fish. But I do see that times have changed and I would support having a committee to help the agency in making the best regulations and rules for our changing cultural and natural environment.

Thank you for all the good work you do.

Lisa von Kann

Barnet

From: John Peters

Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 8:27 AM

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

Subject: H.190

Good day:

Please share this communication with the entire Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee.

This note is to encourage the committee to support H.190. I believe that a serious review and redirection of the policies and operations practices of VF&W is long overdue.

In particular, VF&W is currently completely focused and biased towards hunting, fishing, and trapping to the exclusion of principles such as conservation and preservation of species.

Thank you,

John Peters

New Haven

From: qrtrailterra@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 7:18 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: No to H190

Sincerely hope you choose to
Oppose bill h-190. Emotional antis do not have the science or qualifications to make wildlife decision.
Please Keep this in the hands of the professionals that do an amazing job with conservation and ethical control of our populations. Thanks for your time!
Jonathan