

Testimony of: Linda Huebner

Submitted to: House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

Regarding: H.357, Wanton Waste

Date: March 12, 2019

Chairwoman Sheldon and Honorable members of the Committee, thank you for considering my testimony. I am sorry that I could not attend the hearing in person; I live in Halifax – prohibitively far from Montpelier.

I am also grateful to Representatives McCormack and Burke for filing this important legislation; I support it wholeheartedly and believe that it should have broad appeal to everyone who cares about wildlife.

I am an avid hiker and wildlife tracker; I spend a lot of time in the woods. I have found 3 headless deer left to rot, presumably by people who wanted trophies, but didn't want to work too hard to remove the animals from the woods. Two of these were in the Quabbin in Massachusetts and one was here in Halifax, Vermont.

These disgusting and disrespectful acts were also examples of wanton waste, though there are many others. For example, having a fully open season, as Vermont currently does, allows for coyotes to be killed when their pelts are not prime and their bodies go to waste. Crow killing contests also constitute an egregious form of wanton waste. Less obvious, but not uncommon is the problem of unrecovered animals shot by hunters but not tracked and killed. When hunters use lead shot on wounded animals, the consequences are magnified. The wounded animal is suffering for an extended period of time and can subsequently poison other animals who consume the lead ammunition as they scavenge the carcass.

The hunting community should be ashamed of wanton waste and work to prevent behaviors that contribute to this problem. Wanton waste violates hunting ethics, and also damages public perception of hunting.

I hope that the committee will support H.357 and promptly advance it forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Huebner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Linda Huebner