

Chair Sheldon,

Hello, I am writing to discuss some new language in your proposed bill on the use and retrieval of wild animals. I am writing to you about Draft No. 2.1-H.411 dated 01/26/2022.

On page 2, lines 13-15 (§ 4923 (b) (2) of the proposed language), you require that coyotes taken by trapping be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Over the weekend the Vermont Trappers Association met via zoom to discuss this.

The Vermont Trappers Association does not object to this expectation. Trapping is a labor intensive labor of love. Trappers have a strong connection with the furbearers we pursue, and we do not see this specific inclusion as adding a burden to us or placing an onerous impact upon our lifestyle. Most importantly we do not see it as being harmful to wildlife management in the state of Vermont.

While we support the bill in concept, we understand that this version needs more work, so this statement is specific to the described section about the use and disposal of trapped coyotes. This is not an endorsement of the full wording of the bill as currently drafted. We know you will be hearing from advocates more intimate with the process this has undergone to address the rest of the bill on a line by line basis, specifically the Vermont Traditions Coalition through their involvement in the working group, and we support the changes they will be presenting to you.

Please add this statement to the record for your committee this Wednesday.

Thank you,

Bruce Baroffio

Vt, Trappers Assoc President