



**To:** **House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife**  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

**Re:** **H. 411 – An Act Relating to the Retrieval and Disposal of Wild Animals**

**Position:** **Oppose**

**Date:** **February 1, 2022**

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Honorable Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:

My name is Joseph Mullin and I am the Assistant Manager, Northeastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF). As an avid sportsman and Vermont hunting license holder, I write to you in opposition to H. 411 as introduced – a vague wanton waste bill that would expose sportsmen and women to potential liabilities.

Since 1989, CSF has dedicated itself to the mission of working with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the conservation interests of America's hunters and anglers.

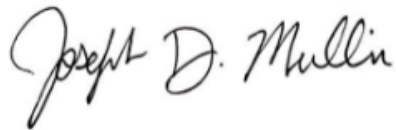
CSF generally supports the principles of “wanton waste” legislation which has been passed in other states to ensure that harvested animals are utilized to the extent that they are able. However, H. 411 is a bill that we cannot and do not support for a number of reasons. In the current bill language, there exists a high level of uncertainty as to the definitions for what would qualify as a hunter “recklessly” failing to retrieve and dispose of the animal. Questions remain, such as: “How long must a hunter search for a wounded animal to avoid prosecution under this section?” and “Who determines whether the effort a hunter has put in to retrieve the animal is sufficient?”

Further, the inclusion of crows on the list of covered species gives us pause. The hunting of crows has been shown to alleviate human-wildlife conflict for farmers, and including them on the list of

covered species in wanton waste legislation is likely to disincentivize hunters from pursuing them. In turn, this would place the burden on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to either alleviate farmers' issues themselves or contract with another entity such as USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to remedy the situation.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to oppose H. 411 as introduced. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph D. Mullin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "M".

Joseph Mullin  
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