

This is a random selection of 8 of 198 e-mails sent by supporters of Protect Our Wildlife's Amendments on S.281:

Dear House Committee Members on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:

Coyote hounding should be banned for numerous reasons, including violation of landowner rights and egregious animal cruelty. It is also not supported by science. In the absence of a ban, I would support the bill if it's amended to strengthen the current language to:

- 1.) Require control of hounds on all lands
- 2.) Prohibit baiting
- 3.) Limit the number of hunting hounds used during the pursuit to two.

In addition, I support Protect Our Wildlife's other amendment requests and hope you will work with them to make this bill a meaningful change to the status quo. Thank you,

Thank you.

With all due respect,

Rachel Cree Sherman

Dear House Committee Members on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:

I believe that hunting coyotes should be banned period! The hunting of coyotes using hounds is cruel for the coyotes and the dogs. It is also frequently a violation of landowner rights. I fully support the fair hunting of deer, turkey, and other game wildlife. But to shoot coyotes, wolves, and similar natural predators is inhuman. There are other ways to handle predators that may harm farm livestock.

In the absence of a ban, I would support the bill if it's amended to strengthen the current language to:

- 1.) Require control of hounds on all lands
- 2.) Prohibit baiting of ALL kinds and uses!
- 3.) Limit the number of hunting hounds used during the pursuit to two

In addition, I support Protect Our Wildlife's other amendment requests and hope you will work with them to make this bill a meaningful change to the status quo.

Thank you,

Athena Lee Bradley
Brattleboro, VT

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As for me, I grew up in a rural area with family members who hunted and fished. I fished but did not hunt and I am not against hunting in general. I worked as a naturalist for some years, and have spent thousands of hours outdoors birding, tracking, and enjoying every wildlife sighting I experienced.

However, I am dismayed at the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, the F&W commissioner, F&W board and Scott administration's sanctioning of what amounts to cruel and inhumane treatment of our state's wildlife. This should not be about appeasement of lobbyists and a minority claiming "tradition" or the "need to make a living", who look the other way about the wanton waste and basically, torture, of wildlife that is happening in Vermont.

Thank you,

Joanna Cummings
Charlotte, Vermont

Dear House Committee Members on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:

I am a seventh generation Vermonter. I am lucky enough to live in rural Vermont that is rich in wildlife. I firmly believe that we are stewards of the land and the creatures who share it with us.

Tormenting Coyote, and other animals is shameful. Vermont hunting tradition is steeped in respect for the animals.

Please do all that you can to protect the animals in our state from people who would treat them as objects for their sadistic enjoyment.

Thank you.

Arlene Averill
Woodbury.

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In addition, I support Protect Our Wildlife's other amendment requests and hope you will work with them to make this bill a meaningful change to the status quo.

Note: This may be a form letter but the sentiments are true and represent my knowledge and experience with coyotes and other wildlife.

Thank you,

Douglas R. Shane
Vershire, VT

To whom it may concern:

I am in writing IN SUPPORT of the amendment requests made by Protect Our Wildlife. I am opposed to the use of dogs in hunting coyotes or any other animal for that matter. That is not sportsmanship, it is unethical and morally repugnant. This is legalized dog fighting whether you see it that way or not.

We must ban the baiting of coyotes and other predators. Why is this even legal, it's not legal to bait deer?

Hounds must be under control - many town ordinances requires dogs to be leashed or at minimum be under the voice command of their owner. These hounds are quite obviously NOT. This is causing a number of human/hound conflicts as well as unwelcome and unwanted trespass onto private property.

If an outright ban on the practice of hunting coyotes with hounds is not made then at minimum the number of hounds MUST be limited.

I understand change is hard, and especially in a rural state such as Vermont where we have generations of bad behavior to overcome. However, you are charged with doing what is in the best interest of ALL Vermonters and listening to the will of the people. The overwhelming majority of voters do NOT want coyotes hunted, and certainly not with hounds. However, barring a full ban let's make incremental changes that are a step towards sound wildlife management - using science not the "old boys network".

Respectfully,

Joyce Littlefield
Lyndonville

Dear House Committee Members on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife:

I am writing to advocate a ban on coyote hunting for numerous reasons, including violation of landowner rights and egregious animal cruelty. The ban should include the use of hounds to track and kill outnumbered and defenseless coyotes.

Please note that Coyote has been a revered figure in Native American mythology since ancient times. Brutally killing this animal is not only a crime against nature but an attack on the values of the First Nation as well.

In addition, I am strongly opposed to the use of baiting of wild animals.

I support Protect Our Wildlife's other amendment requests and hope you will work with them to make this bill a meaningful change to the status quo.

Thank you,

Woon-Ping Chin Holaday, Ph.D.
Rochester, Vermont

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In addition, I support Protect Our Wildlife's other amendment requests and hope you will work with them to make this bill a meaningful change to the status quo.

I know that you have had lots of pressure from the hunting community. Consider that they are only one constituency. I personally would love to ban all hunting with hounds. What we suggest here is an olive branch in hopes that way fewer wild animals suffer badly

Thank you,
Sylvie Desautels
Tunbridge