

Dear House and Senate Committee Members on Natural Resources,

My name is Jennifer Zwerling and I am a Health Sciences major at the University of Vermont. I understand that your committee is considering banning the baiting of wildlife as part of bill S.281. I am writing to say that I support this legislation and recently contacted Dr. Kwit, the State Public Health Veterinarian, about baiting and wanted to share a summary of her response to me.

These factors need to be explored more, but they are worthy of consideration and raise red flags regarding baiting wildlife for hunting purposes:

- Potentially encourages congregation of wildlife, which encourages animal-to-animal spread of disease.
- Feeding non-target species (those not meant to be hunted)
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) from livestock-could potentially cause AMR bacteria in wildlife or possibly into water
- Specific diseases that the carcass carries (e.g. tuberculosis, enteric pathogens)

Thank you,

Jennifer Zwerling