



**Halifax Conservation Commission  
TOWN OF HALIFAX  
P.O. BOX 127  
WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358**

1 April 2024

Members of the House Committee on  
Environment and Energy  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Regarding S.258 – Act Relating to the Management of Fish and Wildlife

Dear Members of the House Committee on Environment and Energy:

The Halifax Conservation Commission is writing to support Senate Bill 258 and to advocate for having it voted out as soon as possible. The transfer of the authority to adopt rules for the hunting and trapping of wildlife including fur-bearing animals from the Fish and Wildlife Board to the Department of Fish and Wildlife will result in better-informed rules and regulations. Further, the change in composition of the Board will enable a wider range of options to be examined.

Hunting coyotes with dogs is cruel and inhumane for all the animals involved. Furthermore, it is unsafe for anyone who happens to encounter the pack of hunting dogs, which are often far from the hunters. As reported in the Addison County Independent, on October 19, 2019, two hikers and their puppy were attacked on the Catamount Trail in Green Mountain National Forest by a pack of bear-hunting dogs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephan Chait, Chair  
Laurel Copeland, Clerk  
Lesley Pollitt, Treasurer  
Mary Horne  
David Towler