



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

26 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:

Following up on our letter of April 1st, the Halifax Conservation Commission is writing again as the legislative session is drawing to a close to ask that you support Senate Bill 258 and voted it 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. The change in composition of the Board will enable a wider range of views to be presented and options to be examined.

Hunting coyotes, bears, bobcats, fox and raccoons with dogs is cruel and inhumane for all the animals involved. 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.

It is time for Vermont to follow the English, Welsh and Scottish model and prohibit the hunting of all wild mammals with dogs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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