

**Act Number:** 09-198

**Bill Number:** 6552

**Senate Pages:** 6146, 6148-6149 **3**

**House Pages:** 10223-10231 **9**

**Committee:** Environment: 2558, 2560, **16**  
2617-2620, 2629-2631, 2888,  
2918-2919, 2927-2930

**Page Total:** **28**

**S – 595**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

**VOL. 52  
PART 19  
5944 – 6203**

tj  
SENATE

345  
June 3, 2009

House bill number 6678 and place it on the Consent Calendar, off of Senate Agenda number two. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, on Senate Agenda number three, under House Bills Favorably Reported, substitute House bill 6552, AN ACT BANNING THE POSSESSION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND IMPORTATION, POSSESSION AND LIBERATION OF WILD ANIMALS, Mr. President, would move to take that item up for purposes of placing it on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion to place items, House bill 6552, on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, continuing on Senate Agenda number three, under disagreeing actions. First Senate Bill number 586, AN ACT CONCERNING COLLINSVILLE HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY, Mr. President, would move to take that item up for purposes of placing it on the Consent Calendar.

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SENATE

347  
June 3, 2009

There's a motion on the floor to take up items,  
Senate bill 887 off of Senate Agenda number three.  
Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if the  
Clerk might call that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate  
on the second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators  
please return to the Chamber. Immediate Roll Call has  
been ordered in the Senate on the second Consent  
Calendar . Will all Senators please return to the  
Chamber.

Mr. President, the items placed on the second  
Consent Calendar begin on Senate Agenda number two,  
substitute for House Bill 6678, Senate Agenda number  
three, substitute for House Bill 6552, Senate bill  
586, substitute for Senate Bill 881 and substitute for  
Senate bill 887. Mr. President, that completes those  
items placed on the second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

tj  
SENATE

348  
June 3, 2009

Please call the Consent Calendar again, sir, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by Roll Call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by Roll Call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

The motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar number two.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar number two passes. Senator Looney.

**H – 1068**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

**VOL.52  
PART 32  
10190 – 10500**

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

383

June 3, 2009

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?  
Representative Wright, have all Members voted? If all  
Members voted, please check the board to determine  
whether your vote has been properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will  
be locked. Will the Clerk please take and announce  
the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 891 as amended by Senate "A"  
and

"B" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	133
Those voting Nay	16
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The Bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 336.

THE CLERK:

On Page 36, Calendar Number 336, Substitute for  
House Bill Number 6552 AN ACT BANNING THE POSSESSION  
OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND THE IMPORTATION,

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

384  
June 3, 2009

POSSESSION AND LIBERATION OF WILD ANIMALS. Favorable  
Report of the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The honorable Chair of the Environment Committee,  
Representative Roy, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move the  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report  
and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of  
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of  
the Bill. Will you remark, sir?

REP. ROY (119th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have before  
us now is a strike-all Amendment. I would ask the  
Clerk to call LCO Number 9384 and that I be allowed to  
summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 9384 to be  
designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 9384, House "A", offered by  
Representative Roy et al.



pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

385  
June 3, 2009

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there any objection? Is there any objection? If not, please summarize House "A".

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what this does, and it's in reaction to that terrible, terrible situation that occurred in Stamford a couple of months ago, that no person shall possess a potentially dangerous animal.

And the Bill goes on to explain what they are and how they're identified.

We also allow certainly, those animals to be displayed in zoos or to be part of programs and shows protecting the people, Beardsley Park Zoo, among others, bring a circus into town.

We also point that the Department of Environmental Protection is in charge of enforcing this law, and any person who violates this will be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.

Any person may import one or more reindeer into the state during the period commencing Thanksgiving Day in each year and ending immediately the following

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

386

June 3, 2009

New Year's Day. These are for a number of outdoor displays that we have around the state.

And finally, no person shall operate, provide, sell or use or offer to operate, provide, sell or use any computer software or service in the state that allows a person when not physically present to remotely control a firearm or a weapon to hunt a live animal or bird.

Mr. Speaker, I move passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark? The honorable Ranking Member of the Environment Committee, Representative Chapin, you have the floor.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the Amendment before us. I think the Chairman did a good job outlining why the Bill is before us.

Certainly, since we first passed this out of the Environment Committee there's been a lot of discussion within this building as to whether this type of legislation should be all encompassing, and through those discussions and debates within this building, I

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

387

June 3, 2009

think many of us heard from many constituents who had various sorts of animals that may or may not have been included.

It's my understanding that this Amendment is limited to only those larger primates. I think that that's a very appropriate thing to do, and I think through the regulations process, which is already authorized in statute, I think DEP can take their time and do a more thoughtful and deliberate vetting of those animals that should or should not be included or considered dangerous animals.

So I want to thank the Chairman for his work on this particular Bill, and encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks. Will you remark further on House "A". The honorable gentleman from Litchfield, Representative Miner, you have the floor.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been monitoring this Bill since it was originally heard and I do share the Chairman and the Ranking Member's

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

388

June 3, 2009

concern about what occurred with regard to the incident with the large primate.

But I think as everyone here knows, this Bill ballooned to a point where it would have outlawed many animals in the State of Connecticut, some of whom are owned by residents of the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I have a constituent who has owned a pair of Burmese pythons, one for 18 years and one for 22, none of whom have ever hurt anyone, no one. And the Bill as it was originally drafted, would have taken those animals away from the people that I think have done a very good job of caring for them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope as the DEP works on what we require them to do, which is develop regulations, that they're very vocal about the process, in that they communicate with everyone across the state so it won't be a surprise to someone to find out that they've lost their pet of 22 years, a pet that's hurt no one. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks. Will you remark further? The honorable gentle lady from Bolton, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

389  
June 3, 2009

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I was distracted by one of my youngest constituents. In this particular Bill it talks about the dangerous animals and that particular issue.

By the way, I also wanted to add was, for those of you to know that the DEP will be coming up, Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with this, with an amnesty on July 25th, Mr. Speaker. The people would be able to turn in dangerous animals as well on July 25th, so it's something they could find on line in conjunction with this type of legislation, I think going hand in glove to work on this problem.

I think it's a very beneficial way, and I'd like to thank the Chairman for all his work on this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Thank you, madam, for your remarks. Will you remark further on House "A"? Will you remark further on House "A"?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of House "A" please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

390  
June 3, 2009

All those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. House  
"A" is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill  
as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as  
amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the  
Well of the House. Will the Members please take your  
seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll  
Call. Members to the Chamber.

The House is voting by Roll Call. Members to the  
Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members  
vote? Will all the Members please check the board to  
determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will  
be locked. Will the Clerk please take and announce  
the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 6552 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 151

Necessary for Passage 76

Those voting Yea 151

pat  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

391

June 3, 2009

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 0

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the immediate transmittal to the Senate of all items acted upon in the House needing further action in the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Is there any objection? Is there any objection?  
If not, all items that need further action by the Senate are transmitted.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for suspension of the rules for immediate consideration of Calendar Number 720.

SB 877

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The question before the Chamber is suspension of the rules for the immediate consideration of House Calendar Number 720. Is there any objection? Is there any objection? If not, the rules are suspended.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 720.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PART 8  
2326 – 2671**

**2009**



1  
tmj/gbr ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 9, 2009  
10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: Senator Meyer  
Representative Roy

VICE CHAIRMAN: Senator Maynard  
Representative Hurlburt

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
SENATORS: DeFronzo, McKinney,  
Roraback.

REPRESENTATIVES: Backer, Bye, Camillo,  
Chapin, Conroy, Davis,  
Fawcett, Fontana,  
Hennessy,  
Hornish, Jutila, Kehoe,  
Lambert, McCluskey, Miner,  
Mushinsky, O'Rourke,  
Spallone, Urban, Willis,  
Wood

REP. ROY: -- speaker is Deputy DEP Commissioner  
Susan Frechette, followed by Ed Parker, also  
from the DEP.

SUSAN FRECHETTE: Good morning, Representative Roy.  
Good morning Representative Chapin, members of  
the Environment Committee. My name is Susan  
Frechette. I'm Deputy Commissioner of the  
Department of Environmental Protection.

The department has submitted testimony on four  
bills today, and I'm here to testify on them.  
The first is House 6428, An Act Concerning the  
Offense of Hunting While Intoxicated.

This is a bill which brings the blood-alcohol  
content in line with driving under the  
influence, as well as a bill the Governor  
recently submitted for boating under the  
influence, which is filed this year. This  
would increase the safety for the public and

SB994  
HB6553  
HB10552

considerable white deer population in many areas of the state, and there are high per-acre densities of deer in certain deer management zones. Most deer are taken on Saturdays, more than any other day of the week. And that's primarily due to the fact that most hunters work during the week. We believe that adding Sundays, in certain high-density zones, would assist in reducing the deer population where the numbers are greatest. Bow hunting is a safe sport. We have not had a single nonhunter accident since the passage of the Deer Management Act in 1974. There have been millions of deer hunter days afield, and we urge the Committee's support for this bill.

Finally, I'd like to comment on House 3815, which is an Act Banning The Sale or Use of Computer Software or Services to Remotely Operate Weapons to Hunt Animals or Birds.

[HB 6552]

This is a bill which the Committee -- the Department -- sorry -- the Department supports. Although we are not aware of any requests for this type of activity in Connecticut, the use of remotely operated computer technology to hunt animals is something which we feel violates, pretty much, every principle of ethical and responsible hunting. There are about 25 states around the country that have adopted similar restrictions to ban the use of computer software to remotely operate hunting weapons. There's legislation pending in about five more, and we would urge the Committee to support this bill.

And with that, I will be happy to take any questions the Committee may have on these bills.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any members of the Committee

MARY KROGH: Good morning. I may be a little in the wrong place. It was my understanding through the papers that you were also going to address primates, and I would like to take two minutes of your time to give you my view.

HB6552

SENATOR MEYER: We are. Actually, the Attorney General seeks to amend one of our bills today to deal with the primate issue, so -- so -- and he has submitted a bill concerning primates and other wild animals. And so that is relevant to this hearing today, and we'd be very happy to hear from you.

MARY KROGH: Thank you.

In 2003, the DEP initially put through a total ban on primates. Through my Senator, we were able to get a grandfather clause that was quite loosely written. After it was issued, I had a meeting that I attended with DEP. Ed Parker was there, Tom Tyler, David Lusk. At the end of the meeting -- and I don't feel it's appropriate here to make public everything that went on in the meeting -- two things were determined. The amendment would be changed so that primates under 50 pounds would be grandfathered. Primates over 50 pounds would not be grandfathered.

Secondly, in the meeting, I made mention that I had been involved in primates, rescues, for over 20 years. I do not breed. I don't broker. And it takes a special home to be able to give a primate the care. I agreed that the group of us would very cautiously and very aggressively police all those that have primates in the state that were grandfathered in.

During that time, I have been involved with DEP. I have been instrumental in getting

monkeys out of our state. The phone calls that I have received on people wanting monkeys, myself and the others that have them, have prohibited -- have really discouraged the ownership of primates.

My only concern is right now there are less than 20 of us in the state that have primates that are grandfathered in. My only request is that the grandfather clause remain. If there want to be additional permits, which presently we don't need any. We don't take them out in the public. We do not have them leave the property unless it's to a vet.

My husband and I, we operate the Circle K Kennel and Farm. We're licensed with USDA. We do not exhibit our primates. And the reason I don't exhibit them, and we can, is because it would only encourage private ownership of primates. People would want primates if they saw some of the cute primates that we do have.

So my only request is that the grandfather clause that is in existence for primates under 20 -- under 50 pounds remain. In fact, if you want to decrease that 50 pounds to a lesser amount, that could even be done, because to the best of my knowledge, there are no chimps or large primates in private homes at this point.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Ms. Krogh.

As I mentioned there is a bill before -- an amendment before us relating to primates and other wildlife animals.

Is there any -- there any questions or comments?

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just maybe you could help me as a member of the Committee, which bill on the agenda today is the bill that somebody is contemplating amending?

SENATOR MEYER: It's the -- it's the leg trap, 994, Senate 994.

REP. MINER: And I guess -- and certainly, I don't want this to be taken the wrong way by either of you. I don't know if anybody else is signed up for the purpose of talking about primates, but I certainly wouldn't have thought to ask anyone if that item was on our agenda today. And I'm just, I guess, kind of curious as to how that occurs without the Committee having any idea that that's a subject we're going to discuss? Mr. Chairman, please?

REP. ROY: It's not on our agenda and your point is well taken, sir. We cannot take the testimony on that. We hope -- and we've been working with the Attorney General, and we hope to amend a bill within the next couple of weeks.

REP. MINER: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any further questions?

Thank you.

MARY KROGH: Okay.

REP. ROY: Thank you very much, Mary.

MARY KROGH: Can my husband make --

THEODORE KROGH: Can we make one -- just one brief?

REP. ROY: You came up together. You had three minutes, that's it.

MARY KROGH: Okay.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Again, for anybody else who wanted to testify on exotic animals, this is not the forum. If you've got written testimony, we'll certainly take it and read it, but we cannot allow testimony because it's not on the agenda.

Thank you.

Our next speaker will be Deborah Robinson, followed by Ray Hanley.

DEBORAH ROBINSON: Okay. Good morning. My name is Deborah Robinson. I'm a circus elephant specialist for In Defense of Animals. We're an international animal advocacy organization.

I speak today on behalf of our many Connecticut members, and as a long-time resident of West Hartford, in support of HB 6555. This bill would ban the use of bull hooks, which are weapons used to hook, stab and strike elephants and force them into compliance.

Bull hooks are weapons, and their use in an underregulated industry is a serious issue. I am sure you will hear later today that the stories of bull hook abuse are exaggerated, and that used correctly, they are simply harmless guides. I would like to dispel the notion that it is possible to use a bull hook

Debora Bresch.

NAN ZYLA: I'm here to testify in support of banning leghold traps, RSB 994, An Act Concerning Leghold Traps.

H:BUSS2

I'm following in the footsteps of such notables as Bart Giamatti, Roger Tory Peterson, Rachel Carson, Charles Darwin and the first DEP commissioner, Dan Lufkin, all of whom referred to traps as cruel and inhumane.

Dan Lufkin described how, as a young boy, he used leghold traps until early one morning when he found a police dog in his trap. He said it took him three hours to release her -- and this is a quote -- "yet a lifetime to forget the pain and fear in her eyes." He never trapped again.

All of these famous people and many more have pointed out the inhumanity of traps, how they cause excruciating pain and suffering in animals, how animals have had to chew off their limbs to escape, how traps have been called, quote, the cruelest devices ever invented by man.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent needless animal suffering. It's irresponsible not to ban these traps, especially when an unnecessary threat, trapping, can be removed by enacting legislation against it.

Leghold traps have been banned in 89 countries and several states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. A lawsuit filed against the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife resulted in a consent decree that required the agency to stop allowing trappers to violate the Endangered Species Act by using traps that catch, injure

and sometimes kill threatened and endangered species.

Endangered, threatened and protected species have all been victims of traps. Traps are random and nondiscriminating, and who will fall victim to a trap cannot be predicted. Adults and kids, dogs, cats, song birds, eagles, turtles and many other nonintended victims are caught in traps.

Beyond the cruelty inflicted by traps, I would like you to consider another facet of traps, that of causing habitat loss. Trapping involves the invasion of what remains of animal and bird habitat. This intervention and invasion by trapping alters the environment and renders existing habitat unsafe and unsuitable. This is -- unsuitable. This is habitat loss.

DEP --

REP. ROY: Nan, we're going stop there.

NAN ZYLA: Can I just --

REP. ROY: Excuse me.

NAN ZYLA: -- mention, I brought this map showing on the Internet hunting, RHB 6552, that it's been banned in at least 35 -- 38 states and the entire East Coast with the exception of Connecticut and -- and Georgia. The NRA even supports the ban.

REP. ROY: Thank --

NAN ZYLA: And I am opposed to Sunday hunting because, as a safety issue, hunting cannot coexist with family recreation, such as bird watching, walking, hiking, wildlife photography, snowshoeing, et cetera.



Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Nan.

Any questions or comments from members of the  
Committee?

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Very briefly on the Sunday hunting  
issue, are you opposed to Sunday hunting or  
all hunting?

NAN ZYLA: Well, to be honest, all hunting, but --

REP. DAVIS: Thank you.

NAN ZYLA: -- the issue is Sunday Hunting.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Any other questions or comments from  
members of the committee?

Representative Spallone.

REP. SPALLONE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Dr. Zyla, thank you for coming up today to  
testify. I know you're a constituent and live  
in Essex, and I appreciate your taking the  
time and sharing your thoughts with the  
Committee today.

NAN ZYLA: Thank you.

REP. SPALLONE: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members  
of the Committee?

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PART 9  
2672 – 3021**

**2009**

## TESTIMONY PRESENTED to ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE- March 9, 2009

By Susan Kautz RN, 3 Beckwith Rd., Haddam, Ct 06438

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the following bills.

I strongly urge you to SUPPORT An ACT CONCERNING LEGHOLD TRAPS. (SB 994). Leghold/body crushing traps are cruel, inhumane and cause many intended and unintended animals horrible pain and suffering. I hope that your vote will be part of the solution to help end this barbaric tradition of the use of leghold traps. I would like to see this society evolving towards a more altruistic position regarding people, animals and environment and you can help make this happen.

I strongly urge you to SUPPORT The HUMANE TREATMENT of ELEPHANTS. (HB 6555). I believe that elephants used in circuses and traveling shows have been living a life of Hell due to the frequent abusive treatment towards them. Many have endured repeated abuse by their handlers, trainers and keepers and are made to perform ridiculous stunts and routines with the use of devices that pierce, shock, pull, cut, pinch, burn their skin and restrain them on short chains so that spectators can see a wild animal do tricks. What century are we living in? It is time to end this abuse. A few years ago I actually bought a ticket (something I am opposed to) to the circus here in Hartford to see for myself what the elephants are made to do. Before the performance the public was invited to visit with the animals. The elephants were not chained at this time and they appeared happy enough and well treated. I left the area, then decided to go back to see them again and apparently visiting hours were over. I had gone in an unlocked door and saw that 2 of the elephants legs had been chained. The handler was not happy I saw that. They want the public to think they are treated well, however behind the scenes they are not! Please consider the absolute stress and helplessness these beautiful creatures must endure to be part of the show.

In addition I ask you to please SUPPORT SB 856 (POSTING OF ORIGIN OF PUPPIES SOLD IN RETAIL), and SUPPORT HB 6552 (An ACT BANNING THE SALE OR USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR SERVICES TO REMOTELY OPERATE WEAPONS TO HUNT ANIMALS AND BIRDS). This is a heinous crime!!! I can't imagine such horrific abuse- can you? I URGE you to SUPPORT.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 6553 (An ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING).

I hope you will consider my position on these bills and support my requests. THANK YOU for your time and the opportunity for me to testify.

**TO:** Senator Edward Meyer, Co-chair, Representative Richard Roy, Co-chair, and Members of the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Dr. Nan Zyla, President, HARP, Inc. ([skyharp@yahoo.com](mailto:skyharp@yahoo.com), (860) 767-2196)

**RE:** SUPPORT RSB-994, An Act Concerning Leghold Traps and RHB-6552, An Act Banning the Sale or Use of Computer Software or Services to Remotely Operate Weapons to Hunt Animals or Birds;  
OPPOSE RB-6553, An Act Concerning Sunday Hunting

**DATE:** March 9, 2009

I am here to support banning leghold traps. I support RSB-994, An Act Concerning Leghold Traps. I am following in the footsteps of such notables as Bart Giamatti, Roger Tory Peterson, Rachel Carson, Charles Darwin, and the first DEP Commissioner, Dan Lufkin, all of whom referred to traps as cruel and inhumane. Dan Lufkin described how, as a young boy he used leghold traps until early one morning when he found a police dog in his trap. He said it took him three hours to release her "and yet a lifetime to forget the pain and fear in her eyes." He never trapped again.

All of these famous people and many more have pointed out the inhumanity of traps, how they cause excruciating pain and suffering of animals, how animals have had to chew off their limbs to escape, how traps have been called "the cruelest devices ever invented by man." The purpose of this bill is "to prevent needless animal suffering." It is irresponsible NOT to ban these traps, especially when an unnecessary threat, trapping, can be removed by enacting legislation against it. Leghold traps have been banned in 89 countries and several states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. A lawsuit filed against the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife resulted in a consent decree to stop the agency from continuing to violate the Endangered Species Act by allowing trappers to use traps that catch, injure and sometimes kill threatened and endangered species. (over)

Endangered, threatened, and protected species have been victims of traps. Traps are random and non-discriminating, and who will fall victim to a trap cannot be predicted. Adults and kids, dogs, cats, eagles, songbirds, turtles, and many other, non-intended victims have been caught in traps.

Beyond the cruelty inflicted by traps, I would like you to consider another facet of traps, that of causing loss of habitat. Trapping involves the invasion of what remains of animal and bird habitat. This intervention and invasion by trapping alters the environment and renders existing habitat unsafe and unsuitable. This is actual **habitat loss**.

DEP caters to the ½ of 1% in Connecticut who trap, because the sale of hunting and trapping licenses makes up a large part of the Wildlife Division's budget. The wildlife in this State is owned by all the taxpayers, including the 94% who do not hunt or trap animals. Sensitivity to the relationship of our species to the environment and to the creatures we share it with is both a test and a challenge to our humanity. To callously disregard the needless pain and suffering inflicted upon our fellow creatures is to call into question our claim to be civilized.

I also support a ban on internet hunting, RHB-6552. This cruel practice has been banned by at least 38 states, including the entire East Coast, with the exception of Connecticut and Georgia! In other states, a ban on internet hunting has been considered necessary for national security. The NRA even supports a ban on internet hunting.

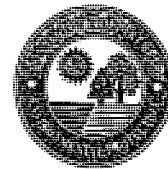
I oppose RB-6553, An Act Concerning Sunday Hunting. Hunting is allowed in Connecticut six days a week. As a safety issue, hunting cannot coexist with family recreation, such as hiking, walking, birdwatching, wildlife photography. In practice, this means that people cannot engage in non-hunting activities on or near private land that is used for hunting.

**Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems, HARP, Inc.**

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing March 9, 2009  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Gina McCarthy  
Department of Environmental Protection

**Raised House Bill No. 6552 - AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OR USE OF  
COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR SERVICES TO REMOTELY OPERATE  
WEAPONS TO HUNT ANIMALS OR BIRDS**

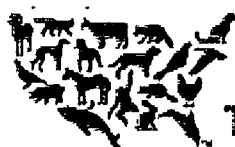
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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill Number 6552 - AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OR USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR SERVICES TO REMOTELY OPERATE WEAPONS TO HUNT ANIMALS OR BIRDS.

The Department of Environmental Protection strongly supports the intent of this bill to prohibit Internet hunting, commonly referred to as "computer-assisted remote hunting." Twenty-five states have adopted similar restrictions and legislation is pending in at least five additional states to address concerns of many segments of the public, especially hunters and resource managers, who find the practice extremely objectionable.

The act of using remotely-operated computer technology to hunt animals violates virtually every principle of ethical and responsible hunting. Individual responsibility, accountability and safety are key components of hunting that are absent from this activity. While the Department is not aware that any Connecticut resident has requested or advocated for the remote operation of weapons to hunt animals, we support this bill as a prudent step to prohibit such activity in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's view on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, Legislative Liaison, at 424-3401.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**Testimony by:** Andrew Page  
**In Support of:** H.B. 6552  
**Committee:** Joint Committee on the Environment  
**Date:** March 9, 2009

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and our nearly 174,000 constituents in Connecticut, I urge you to support H.B. 6552 to prohibit any person from operating, providing, selling, or using any computer software or service that allows a person, when not physically present, to remotely control a firearm or weapon to hunt a live animal or bird.

H.B. 6552 was introduced in reaction to the development of a click and shoot mechanism that operates like an Internet computer game. This operation based in Texas – Live-Shot.com – allowed clients to point and shoot a rifle via remote control. Live-shot.com was linked to a platform with a rifle and camera that could be remotely aimed at animals in what amounts to a video-monitored canned hunt. While Texas passed legislation banning Internet hunting in 2005, effectively stopping this activity on Live-Shot.com, an internet hunting system could be started or accessed virtually anywhere across the country – including Connecticut. Unfortunately, sick ideas have a tendency to spread. Furthermore, the operator of Live-Shot.com stated in a December 5, 2006 article in the *Arizona Republic* that “Internet hunting may go offshore,” clearly indicating his desire to continue to pursue remote-control hunting.

Internet hunting is unethical and unsporting. It doesn't take a very strict definition of 'sportsmanship' to see that this practice, if allowed to proceed, would violate every ethical standard that hunters profess. It would involve no hunting skill whatsoever, and would distance the hunter entirely from the act of killing, denying animals any of the 'respect' that hunters avow they feel for their prey. This pay-per-

view slaughter has garnered strong opposition from The National Rifle Association and the Safari Club International, as well as animal welfare proponents.

This activity also poses serious safety concerns. Allowing anyone who logs into a website to fire a weapon into a hunting preserve is a danger to anything that crosses the gun's path—including non-target wildlife as well as people.

Since the inception of Internet hunting, 38 states have acted to ban this egregious activity by either legislation or regulation including the neighboring states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Most states have taken or are taking action to prevent the activity in their state. I encourage Connecticut to do the same.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Andrew Page  
Senior Director, Wildlife Abuse Campaign  
The Humane Society of the United States  
[apage@humanesociety.org](mailto:apage@humanesociety.org)





TO: Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, and Environment Committee Membership  
FROM: CT Sportsmen's Caucus  
DATE: March 9, 2009  
RE: Caucus Positions on Various Bills

Last month at a meeting of the Connecticut Sportsmen's Caucus we discussed numerous pieces of legislation before the Environment Committee. The 43 member body of the Caucus took the following positions:

On the matter of House Bill 6552: AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OR USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR SERVICES TO REMOTELY OPERATE WEAPONS TO HUNT ANIMALS OR BIRDS, the Caucus was of the opinion that while there was no apparent interest in the State to participate in the activities that would be banned by the legislation, we could not, and should not, let the opportunity to send a clear message go by. We could not envision an instance under which any responsible hunter would make use of this technology. Therefore, we voted to support the legislation that would prohibit its use and would ask that the Environment Committee do the same.

On the matter of House Bill 6553: AN ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING, the Caucus voted to support the narrowly crafted language that would permit Sunday Hunting with bow and arrow. We believe that this would be both an opportunity for sportsmen and a tool for the Department of Environmental Protection. There is plenty of data to support this type of hunting in the effort to better control the deer herd in parts of Connecticut that have thus far grown beyond the size the agency and many organizations believe to be healthy for people, plants and all the animals that share these ecosystems.

On the matter of Senate Bill 994: AN ACT CONCERNING LEGHOLD TRAPS, the Caucus had a lengthy discussion about the use of leg hold traps in this state. Subsequently, the bill as drafted appears to include other traps of which all are currently legal in this state for use by trained and licensed trappers for the capture of furbearing animals. Best Management Practices of this state and many others include these tools for the purpose of controlling population, limiting damage to forest and field, and helping to limit the impact on roads and septic systems. While the vote was not unanimous, it was the consensus of the caucus that SB 994 be opposed.

We thank the Committee for considering our opinions on these pieces of legislation and would be happy to discuss them and others as they pertain to opportunities for Connecticut Sportsmen and the benefit of Connecticut's environment.