

casey
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March 3, 2004

The Honorable William Greene
House of Representatives
The Honorable Pamela Resor
The Senate of Massachusetts
Co-Chairs of the Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture
State House, Rm. 473F
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Greene and Senator Resor:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to ask that you oppose house bills 4283 and 200, which would repeal provisions in the Wildlife Protection Act and thus remove restrictions on the use of body-gripping traps and allow the use of steel leghold traps on land for the first time in decades.

The leghold trap has been banned in 89 countries and a number of states, including Massachusetts, California, Florida, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Washington. Some animals, especially mothers desperate to get back to their young, fight so vigorously to get out of traps that they attempt to chew or twist off their trapped limbs. The body-gripping traps used by trappers to capture and kill beavers cause immeasurable suffering. In many cases, body-gripping traps fail to catch the animals quickly or on target. If the traps do not kill the beavers immediately, they drown—an extremely cruel and prolonged death.

There are numerous alternatives to trapping, including beaver “bafflers,” which disperse the flow of water in such a way that beavers are not compelled to create dams. People living in areas with beavers can build short fences around trees that are in danger of being cut down or simply wrap small trees with cylinders of galvanized, welded wire.

I hope that you'll make the compassionate decision to oppose H.B. 4283 and H.B. 200. Thank you for your careful consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Casey Affleck