HB 1351 testimony

Honorable Members of the House Environment/Agriculture Committee:

My name is Jean Slepian, I live in Stoddard, in Cheshire County. I 'm not employed by and I do not represent any animal protection organization. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 1351.

I first became aware of use of glue traps/glue boards several years ago when I began following the Facebook posts of several wildlife rehabilitation hospitals. The stories of the animals stuck in glue traps that were saved, and those that could not be saved are heartbreaking. I'm very grateful to Rep. Cannon for bringing this issue to the Legislature; I'm also very grateful to the dedicated staff of the Legislative Services Office who, despite having an unprecedented number of bills this year, wrote this bill very carefully and thoroughly. I would also like to thank the staff of the Information Technology Department for providing and maintaining the remote sign-in/testimony system, which makes it possible for citizens to participate in legislative process, when weather or other circumstances prevent in-person attendance. This has been a tremendous tool for, " citizen lobbyists" !

I will try to be as concise as possible in my testimony, I have distributed packets of information that provide additional sources and support for my testimony, including statements from NH Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, American Veterinary Medical Association, several NH professional wildlife removal companies, and several wildlife rehabilitation centers . I will be happy to answer any questions.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns against the use of glue traps because the animals caught will to continue to excrete bodily substances, including blood, as they die over the course of several days, and this can be a source of disease transmission, including hantavirus, salmonella and leptospirosis. This is especially dangerous in households with small children or pets.

The NH Fish & Game Department cautions that glue traps should be avoided (Wildlines, Summer 2021) because non-target animals such as song birds and snakes are frequently stuck in these traps.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service, "White Nose Syndrome Task Force", in its publication for Wildlife Control Operators (enclosed in packet) states that sticky traps are unacceptable as a management practice for bats. There are 8 species of bats in NH, all are of "conservation concern" (NHFG).

The American Veterinary Medical Association states that when lethal traps must be used for euthanasia of animals (defined as the intentional death of an animal, without causing distress or pain), the most humane option must be chosen and that trapping a conscious animal in adhesive -based traps does not meet acceptable guidelines for euthanasia.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association states that humane methods must be used for control of nuisance animals ; glue traps are an example of methods that are not humane.

In a survey of 20 New Hampshire professional wildlife & pest control/removal companies, conducted August-November 2023, 15 companies stated explicitly that they do not use glue traps; 19 companies state that they use only methods that are ethical and humane. Additional comments and information

from these companies are included in packets that have been distributed.

In May, 2023, the US Supreme Court , in a majority opinion written by Justice Gorsuch (*Pork producers vs. Ross, challenging California Proposition 12)* confirmed that states have the absolute right to regulate the sale of ordinary consumer products within their borders. As Committee members are aware, NH AG Formella is currently engaged in litigation, along with AGs from several other states, challenging Massachusetts Question 3, which is similar to Ca Prop 12, as it requires humane standards for farm animals that are shipped into the state , however Mass Question 3 also requires humane standards for farm animals that are shipped through the state to other destinations. HB 1351 does not seek to control the sale of adhesive-based traps in any other states, and is clearly within the boundaries established by SCOTUS in *Pork Producers vs. Ross.*

NH RSA 215-D1, the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact, requires that the party states agree that wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit of all of the state's residents and visitors. This means that the State, as Trustee, has a statutory and fiduciary obligation to protect wildlife resources by removing hazards , for example, prohibiting the sale (RSA 339:77) and use (RSA 211:13-b) of lead fishing jigs and sinkers because of the danger to water fowl, especially loons. Prime sponsor of the lead fishing jigs/sinkers legislation -- Sen. Jeb Bradley, when he was a member of the NH House of Representatives.

Other options : Snap traps, electric traps, catch-and-release traps, repellants (peppermint oil, cloves, cayenne pepper, commercial products), rodent contraceptives, exclusion, removing food sources, sealing trash containers.

In conclusion, adhesive-based rodent traps are INHUMANE, INDISCRIMINATE, and INEFFECTIVE. They are a health hazard for people, companion animals, and wildlife; they are a waste of money and time for NH consumers, and prohibiting their use will not adversely affect NH professional wildlife/pest removal companies. The Supreme Court of the US has confirmed that regulation of ordinary consumer products by states within their borders does not conflict with Constitutional principles related to commerce. NH RSA 215-D1 requires that the State, as Trustee, must protect wildlife resources from hazards, so that these resources can be enjoyed by all of the State's residents and visitors. The evidence for prohibiting adhesive-based rodent traps is clear and compelling.

Please support NH HB 1351. Thank you.

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