



NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

Rep. Jeff Goley ♦ Rep. John Klose ♦ Sen. Kevin Cavanaugh ♦ Sen. Bob Giuda

March 15, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As leaders of the bipartisan and bicameral New Hampshire Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, we are writing to you today to express our strong opposition to H.B. 442, and to encourage you to join us in voting against it.

H.B. 442 sets a dangerous precedent by removing a wildlife management decision from the purview of the professional scientists at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and instead vests it with the legislature.

The Fish and Game Department is presently well equipped to set season lengths and harvest goals through their existing open and transparent regulatory framework, which includes input from the general public. By proscribing a season length in statute, we would eliminate the ability of the Fish and Game Department to nimbly implement regulations to meet emerging or changed conditions. Should this measure be passed, and future changes be necessary, we would instead need to take up additional legislation, which can be a much slower process. The delayed timeline would have the potential of causing irreparable harm to wildlife populations that the agency is charged with conserving – including, but not limited to, the very species this legislation concerns.

We hope you will join us, and the entirety of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, in our staunch opposition to this bill. By opposing this unwarranted and emotionally-driven measure you will both affirm the majority Committee report of "Inexpedient to Legislate," and help to ensure that sound, scientific principles continue to be the guiding force for fish and wildlife management decisions here in the Granite State.

Sincerely,

Representative Jeff Goley
Co-Chair, New Hampshire Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

Representative John Klose
Co-Chair, New Hampshire Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The Sportsmen's Voice in the State Capitol

For more information on the New Hampshire Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus please contact Brent Miller at BMiller@congressionalsportsmen.org or visit <http://congressionalsportsmen.org/state/nh>.