



# TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**From:** Senator Terry Moulton

**To:** Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry

**Re:** **Testimony on Senate Bill 338**  
**Relating to:** interfering with hunting, fishing and trapping and providing criminal penalties.

**Date:** **October 28, 2015**

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about Senate Bill 338.

Hunting and fishing are rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Wisconsin Constitution. Recently, sportsmen and women across the state have faced harassment by individuals and groups who are opposed to hunting, fishing and trapping. While it is illegal to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing and trapping, it can be difficult for local law enforcement to enforce these laws and preserve our constitutional rights.

I worked with Representative Adam Jarchow, law enforcement, hunting groups, and the Department of Natural Resources to craft legislation that makes existing hunter harassment laws easier to enforce to put an end to this illegal interference. Currently, the law prohibits a person from intentionally interfering with hunting, trapping and fishing by harassing a wild animal or impeding a person engaged in lawful hunting. This bill would expand prohibited behaviors to include disturbing a lawfully placed stand or lawfully placed bait or other feed, systematically photographing and videotaping hunters, or using a drone for these purposes. The bill will also increase penalties to those engaging in this type of behavior.

By increasing penalties and further defining prohibited behavior, Senate Bill 338 protects our rights as Wisconsinites and ensures families can continue to hunt, fish and trap in our state without interference. I urge you to recommend the passage of Senate Bill 338. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

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## Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage

2015 SB 338

### *Interfering with hunting, fishing, and trapping and providing criminal penalties*

Good morning Chairman Tiffany and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, for informational purposes, as to the conservation law enforcement components of SB 338.

#### Law Enforcement

This proposal enumerates additional conduct which is considered “activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping”, expands the interference restrictions to additionally include lawfully placed hunting stands and lawfully placed bait and feed, and clarifies that interference caused through use of a drone is also prohibited.

This bill adds a new form of prohibited interference, which occurs when a person engages in a series of 2 or more acts carried out over time, however short or long, that show a continuity of purpose and that are intended to impede or obstruct a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping, or an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping, including any of the following:

- Maintaining a visual or physical proximity to the person.
- Approaching or confronting the person.
- Photographing, videotaping, audiotaping, or through other electronic means, monitoring or recording the activities of the person.

Additionally, SB 338 creates new penalty provisions related to “repeater” sentencing.

This bill adds the terms “feeding” and “feed” to the hunter interference law, alongside the terms “baiting” and “bait.” In the conservation context, the terms “feeding” and “feed” are associated with material placed for *non-hunting* purposes, whereas “baiting” and “bait” are associated with material placed for *hunting* purposes. Through the inclusion of the terms “feeding” and “feed”, the interference provisions may be considered expanded to include non-hunters.

A SB 338’s penalty provisions related to “repeater” sentencing, which refer to “a person **who violated**” are dissimilar from other related “repeater” provisions in Chapter 29, which refer to “a person...previously **convicted.**” This proposal’s approach would therefore produce a new standard for trial courts to apply.

I hope you find this information helpful, and would be happy to address any questions you may have.

## SENATE TESTIMONY FOR SB 338

Thank you Chairman Tiffany, and members of the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee. I am here today asking for your support of SB 338. Over the last 3 years many bear hunters have been subjected to stalking like behavior from those that do not have the same cultural background as bear hunters. They feel that our views should be the same as theirs. As we all know, not everyone is the same and thankfully so. As bear hunters our solitude is one of the reasons that we enjoy being outdoors.

Certainly, having every move you make to be scrutinized by those that do not share our values is the reason that this bill is being supported by many of the people here today. It is not, that what is being done is illegal or questionable. I have many times been approached by DNR Law Enforcement and gladly answered all of their questions, as have many others I assume. Honestly, it is their job and they do it very well, and I applaud them for it.

So we ask ourselves, what is it that these people are trying to accomplish? It is simply to keep harassing hunters until they leave the landscape and are no longer a threat to these animals. This harassment is not unlike that of the paparazzi and the Hollywood types. Another example would be the relentless stalking of an estranged member of the family. This type of behavior is not allowed in these instances and should not be allowed in these cases either. It is simply unacceptable.

Many of these fringe groups harassing hunters feel that wildlife does not need to be managed, and should be allowed to manage itself and let nature run its course. They feel that if left alone everything will be just fine and the problem will go away. They actually believe that all that is needed is to have the DNR hire people to trap and move animals that are creating problems, with no regard to the cost of this program. Those of us in the rural portions of this state know better as do those of you on this committee.

The real fact of the matter is there are some people that do not agree with hunting and they will do whatever it takes to make hunting illegal. That is their goal, and chipping away at a small portion of the hunting community at a time, is how they hope to accomplish this goal. I ask that you not be fooled by these individuals and ask that you support this bill, SB 338.

For those of us in rural Wisconsin, we accept this as part of our culture and have learned this from our ancestors. It is just the way things have always been. It is not our intention to eliminate all the animals from the landscape but to manage these animals so that all of us in Wisconsin can enjoy that resource. For that reason, I again ask for your support of SB 338. Thank you.

Al Lobner, Pres. Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association



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# ADAM JARCHOW

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on **SB 338** – Relating to: interfering with hunting, fishing, and trapping and providing criminal penalties

**‘The Right to Hunt Act’**

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, thank you for hearing this important bill today.

In Wisconsin, hunting and other outdoor activities such as trapping and fishing are in our blood. It is something that most of us can remember from our childhood; going out into the woods with our fathers and learning how to hunt. Most of us were taught at a young age the basics: never point a gun at something you do not intend to shoot, know your target and what is beyond it, etc. We were taught to be responsible hunters and are excited to pass that tradition on to our children.

Beyond that, hunting is a constitutionally guaranteed right in the State of Wisconsin. Adopted in 2003 as Joint Resolution 1, the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin says, “...*the people have the right to fish, hunt, trap, and take game subject only to reasonable restrictions as prescribed by law.*” We value hunting so much that our state has made it a guaranteed right to participate in hunting. This protection is not taken for granted and is appreciated by the millions of outdoorsmen and women in Wisconsin. There is a group of people who does not agree with these practices. They have every right to disagree with hunting, fishing and trapping. That is what makes this country great... they can disagree with what we do and speak out against it. It is their right to do that. Some folks have taken this further and that is when the legislature needs to step in to protect the right to hunt.

The current hunter harassment law was written by the late Representative Robert Thompson, a Democrat from Poynette and was signed into law in 1989 as Act 190. Wisconsin’s law was modeled after Arizona’s hunter harassment law which was the first in the nation. Many other states followed suit because of incidents in their states where lawful hunters were being targeted by extremists in the field. I am thankful to the members of the State Assembly who came before us who enacted this law, however because of new technology and growing tension in the woods, it is time to strengthen our law. This bill explains what constitutes harassment and allows local law enforcement and game wardens to better respond and alleviate these situations in the field. In my conversations with local law enforcement in my area, they feel that the current law is not strong enough and that this bill would give them the tools they need to do their jobs. We worked closely with law enforcement and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on this bill so that it could be as effective as possible.

Contrary to what you will hear from opponents of this bill, **SB 338** does NOT infringe on the first amendment rights of anti-hunters. There must be an intent to harass on the part of the harasser. Someone simply taking a picture in the woods is not subject to this law. Someone



riding an ATV through the woods or taking a nature walk will also not be subject to the hunter harassment law, just as it has been interpreted for the last 26 years. A person must “intentionally interfere” with a hunter, fisherman or trapper in order to violate the hunter harassment law.

It's actually unfortunate that this legislation even had to be written. If people would respect others' rights, it wouldn't have to be. However, there is a group of extremist anti-hunters out there who seem to enjoy making hunters' lives miserable. This group, known as Wolf Patrol, originally formed when wolf hunting was legal and would fight against legal wolf hunting in Wisconsin only because they didn't agree with the practice. When a judge in Washington D.C. put the wolf back on the endangered species list, thus ending the wolf hunt in Wisconsin, it appears the Wolf Patrol diverted their efforts toward bear hunting. Some will wait outside the homes of hunters (and their families) and wait for them to leave so they can follow the hunter to their site. They will then follow the hunters through the woods with video cameras documenting LEGAL acts, much like stalking. Whether they agree with the activities of hunters and trappers or not, what they are doing is legal. The harassers will stand in front of bait, stand in front of tree stands, make noise and do whatever they can to ruin a hunt. With all the unnecessary ruckus, an entire day of hunting could be ruined by people that just don't believe in what someone else is legally doing. This is wrong and must be stopped.

At the bottom of my written testimony, you will see examples of the radical, childish behavior exhibited by Wolf Patrol members and other animal rights activists on social media and in e-mail. Their words are derogatory and hypocritical. These people have an agenda and in their minds, animal rights precedes the rights of Wisconsin citizens.

One of the leaders of the Wolf Patrol is a convicted felon by the name of Rod Coronado. In 1985 and 1986, he took part in the sinking of two whaling ships in Iceland causing \$2 million worth of damage. In 1995, Coronado was sentenced to three and a half years in federal prison for firebombing a University of Michigan lab and destroying 32 years-worth of animal research in 1992. When asked about it, he said that he has no regrets and wishes he could do it again. These are just two examples of the kind of person that is leading this group who are trying to make life miserable for the law abiding citizens of Wisconsin.

You are going to hear from quite a few folks today with compelling stories of the things that have happened to them and their friends in the woods. I will share a story that I heard just this week from a constituent who lives not too far from my house. My constituent was driving home and noticed he was being followed and identified the person following him as an anti-hunter. While driving around the block several times, he was still being followed. The victim went to the neighbor's house, for the safety of his wife and young child at home. The harassers went around the corner and sat at the corner, then drove past the victim's house for 20 minutes. They then parked again and took pictures and videos of the house, vehicles and license plates, which were then posted on the Wolf Patrol Facebook page and website. It continued the next day, where the Wolf Patrol followed the victim around the entire day, still taking pictures and videos. Their comments on the pictures of the victim's vehicle and license plate number said that they would continue to find him and track him down. The Wolf Patrol supporters commented on the pictures, “burn them down” and “destroy them.” This is absurd and it is sickening that a young family is subject to this harassment and stalking only because they believe in hunting. Just because the Wolf Patrol does not agree with hunting, this man had to worry about what might happen to his young child in their own home after doing nothing but exercising his rights under the Wisconsin Constitution. It needs to stop.

**Here are some examples of the anti-hunters and their views on hunters in Wisconsin. Their animosity and anger proves the need for this legislation.**



Di Inscoe AND I will continue to shoot, kill and otherwise harrassantone who shoots at a wolf, I'm damm sick and tired of our animals being destroyed for a human's good, we ARE NOT starving, more food is wasted in the USA to feed half of the world, you NEED to find another way, and if you need help, I have quote a few hollow point magnum bullets if you need futher convincing!

Like · Reply · Message · 7 · October 16 at 4:47am



John Lowe Hunters are killers so if you agree with murder shame on you !!!

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · October 23 at 5:37am



Patty Szorentini Insignares I'm convinced there is a sub-species of humans running around with the intellectual and reasoning part of their brains still waiting to evolve. And these killers be those...

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 8 hrs



Melissa Sackett Grew up in WI, dad had about 80 acres of beautiful wooded land that I enjoyed riding ny horse thru on the trails. Dad posted "NO HUNTING" signs everywhere and we still couldn't keep the hunters out. We could hear gunshots and see the hunters but by the tine authorities were called and visited, they were unable to locate the hunters. Hunters are the craziest, rudest, undereducated people that exist on this earth. They think their rights supercede everyone else's .....and I haven't even got into what is wrong with people that ENJOY killing, not to survive or for protection, but for the sheer THRILL of killing. Psychologists call these hunters "nentially ill" . This won't bother hunters , though, because obviously they can't read!!!!

Like · Reply · Message · 7 · October 24 at 11:53am · Edited



Billy Angus ~May The Swamis Of Persia Put Anthrax In Their Camos And Budweiser~

Like · Reply · Message · October 17 at 11:29pm



Jamie Graham Family friendly outdoor activities. ..my mom never took me to do that..we went to the lake & went water skiing, boating, sailing, cooked with friends, travelled etc.

Who is the felon leading the activism he puts in this post?

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · October 24 at 11:00am



Robert Suhr That's what I would like to know!!!!!!!???????

Like · Reply · Message · Yesterday at 10:04am



Write a reply ...





Janet Bennett Dankert

Oct 25th, 12:06am

I spent most of my adult years in Wisconsin and I am mortally ashamed of redneck, insensitive, narcissistic people like you. Most people think of Wisconsin as back woods, backwards, beer guzzling and poorly educated and you and your ilk prove them right.

**From:** David Brensilver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2015 3:48 PM  
**To:** [Sen.Tiffany](mailto:Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Sen.Roth](mailto:Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Sen.Moulton](mailto:Sen.Moulton@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Sen.Moulton@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Moulton@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Sen.Wirch](mailto:Sen.Wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Sen.Wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Sen.Vinehout](mailto:Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Ott](mailto:Rep.Ott@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Ott@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Ott@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Quinn](mailto:Rep.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Kleefisch](mailto:Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Mursau](mailto:Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Nerison](mailto:Rep.Nerison@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Nerison@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nerison@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Ripp](mailto:Rep.Ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Born](mailto:Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Tittl](mailto:Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Skowronski](mailto:Rep.Skowronski@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Skowronski@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Skowronski@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Edming](mailto:Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Milroy](mailto:Nick.Milroy@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Nick.Milroy@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Nick.Milroy@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Danou](mailto:Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Hesselbein](mailto:Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Shankland](mailto:Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; [Rep.Spreitzer](mailto:Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov) <[Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 338 & Assembly Bill 433

Sens. [Tiffany](mailto:Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Roth](mailto:Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Moulton](mailto:Sen.Moulton@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Wirch](mailto:Sen.Wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov), and [Vinehout](mailto:Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov), and Reps. [Ott](mailto:Rep.Ott@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Quinn](mailto:Rep.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Kleefisch](mailto:Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Mursau](mailto:Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Nerison](mailto:Rep.Nerison@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Ripp](mailto:Rep.Ripp@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Born](mailto:Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Tittl](mailto:Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Skowronski](mailto:Rep.Skowronski@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Edming](mailto:Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Milroy](mailto:Nick.Milroy@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Danou](mailto:Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Hesselbein](mailto:Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov), [Shankland](mailto:Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov), and [Spreitzer](mailto:Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov).

I have read with disgust and outrage the text of Senate Bill 338 and Assembly Bill 433. That Wisconsin legislators feel the need to further protect those who set out to brutally slaughter other species betrays their moral bankruptcy.

The eagerness to do favors for bloodthirsty psychopaths, and the industry that profits from their violent behavior, is astonishing.

In a just world, animals would be protected from *those who harass them*. Instead, your colleagues continue to cater to those who set out to kill animals who have every right to live their lives free from fear and harm, just as you do.

The introduced legislation reeks like the odious ag-gag laws that attempt to keep the public in the dark about the holocaust that's being perpetrated on farms across this country.

Wisconsin residents and those around the country and the world are entitled to the truth. And the truth is that setting out to brutally slaughter an animal is violent, cruel, and evil.

Terrorists do not deserve protection. The animals do. I urge you to throw Senate Bill 338 and Assembly Bill 433 in the trash, where the legislation belongs, and to work to enact laws that would ban hunting altogether.

Seriously,  
David Brensilver  
Waterford, CT  
[REDACTED]

Testimony In Opposition to Companion Bills SB 338/AB 433  
Jodi Habush Sinykin, Of Counsel, Midwest Environmental Advocates

Good morning, thank you for this opportunity to testify. While I have long worked as an attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates, today I am also speaking to you as a lifelong Wisconsin citizen, a parent, and business owner. I'm someone who truly cherishes our state's natural landscapes, our state parks and forests, and our Wisconsin wildlife. My middle son and I have set a goal of walking the entire Ice Age Trail, we are making solid progress and enjoying every minute.

I drove the several hours here this morning to voice my opposition to proposed SB 338/ AB 433 on the basis that the bill promises to make our public lands less safe, less lawful, and less ecologically tolerable for our wildlife. And for no compelling reason either, when existing state law already makes it illegal for anyone to interfere with or impede hunting, trapping and fishing activities.

Worse than unnecessary, the bill proposes arguably unconstitutional constraints on freedoms we fortunately take for granted as American citizens, like the freedom to observe and photograph activities taking place on *public* lands. For example, the bill would criminalize "maintaining a visual ... proximity" (looking) "however short or long." Since when, and in what other context has the act of observing public activities on public lands been subject to criminal prosecution, fines and imprisonment? Are people prohibited from observing others in a public park or in a public building? What about photographing a windsurfer on Lake Michigan? Of course not. These are shared public spaces, we need to treat them accordingly.

Equally troubling is the chilling effect that these companion bills SB 338/AB433 will have on the vast majority of users of our state lands. Census trends inarguably point to the fact that the majority of the money spent on wildlife-related activities money are spent by people who fall under the non-hunter/trapper category—hikers, wildlife photographers, eco-tourists, birdwatchers, and the like. Why not propose a bill that reflects these trends, this economic reality, instead of a bill that caters to a small subset of hound-hunters whose own videotaped brutalities are a stain on our state's reputable hunting tradition. I learned a long time ago that when people try to hide things, they have something to hide.

Finally, there is no denying that this bill, if enacted, will take down, render worthless, for all practical purposes the DNR's Tipline, which relies upon citizens' observations and videos to identify illegal hunting practices—a watchdog function more important than ever in these times of DNR under-staffing when only a limited number of Game Wardens remain to patrol vast tracts of public lands. Who, I ask, will be served by undermining the DNR Tipline in this manner? Will ethical, law-abiding hunters be served? No. Will Wisconsin families and recreational users be served? No. Wildlife advocates? No again.

It is for these reasons that I oppose this bill and ask that you do the right thing for the vast majority of people in this state and take it no further.





# WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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October 28, 2015

## **Testimony of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Regarding SB 338**

*First Vice President:*

Bill Tollard  
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Chairman Tiffany, Members of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry. My name is George Borchert and I am the President of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation is comprised of over 190 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related organizations located throughout the State of Wisconsin.

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The Federation is strongly supportive of strengthening the current Hunter Harassment Law through the adoption of SB 388. Recently some individuals opposed to hunting, fishing and trapping have become more brazen in their actions to interfere with sportsmen and women engaged in lawful hunting, fishing and trapping. Hunting, fishing and trapping are protected by Article 1, Section 26 of the Wisconsin Constitution. Expanding the protection against harassment to preparatory activities such as dog training, target shooting and scouting are excellent additions to the current law.

*Treasurer:*

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However, the Federation is supportive of SB 388 to the extent that it does not interfere with the Constitutional rights of other users of public lands. So we would ask the Committee to be careful before prohibiting someone from being in visual proximity or taking photos of someone hunting, fishing or trapping unless those actions are done in a manner that cause actual interference with hunting, fishing or trapping. In fact, prohibiting photography would prevent even sportsmen and women from taking pictures of illegal activities and presenting them to their conservation warden. One suggestion might be not to prohibit photography but make it illegal to publicly distribute such photographs through social media or other means without the permission of the hunter, angler or trapper. One technical change we would suggest is that on line five of page 1, is changing the word "fisher" to "angler".

*Secretary:*

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In conclusion, the Wildlife Federations thanks the authors of this bill for bringing it forward and hope that it will be passed into law with appropriate changes as soon as possible.

*Past President:*

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# WISCONSIN FORCE

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges,  
Clubs and Educators, Inc.

Phone 888-337-3534  
www.wisconsinforce.org

October 28, 2015

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Re: Interference with hunting, fishing, and trapping activities. Senate Bill 338

The citizens of Wisconsin have protection against harassment and stalking. That protection should also extend to Wisconsin sportsmen and women enjoying our time honored traditions. Senate Bill 338 expands current law so that a person may not interfere or attempt to interfere with an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping. It includes protection against disturbing a lawfully placed hunting stand, disturbing bait or other feed, using a drone to harass, and activities that are intended to harass our rich sporting heritage.

Those individuals that photograph, record, use visual or physical proximity, confront or approach individuals during the exercise of lawful activities should be prosecuted. This bill would help to do that.

Wisconsin FORCE (Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators Inc.) enthusiastically supports SB 338. It is time to help stop the harassment of activities involved with our rich sporting heritage.

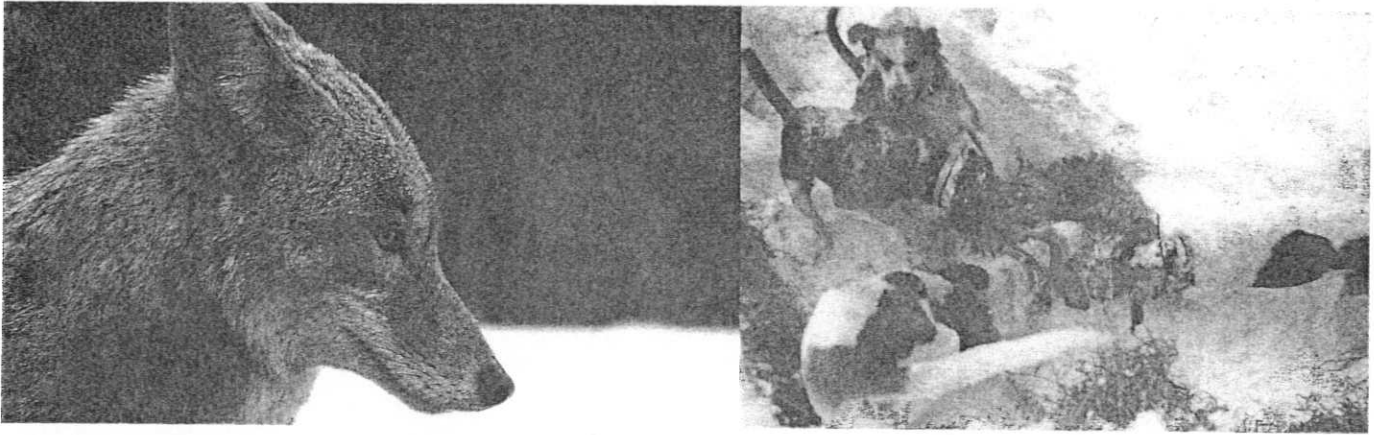
Wisconsin FORCE believes that passing this legislation would greatly serve all citizens of Wisconsin. We encourage you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Nass  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Firearm Owners,  
Ranges, Clubs and Educators, Inc.



MASS EXTINCTION CONFIRMED, WITH MANY SPECIES-- INCLUDING HUMANS-- LABELLED "THE WALKING DEAD" (U.K. Independent/American Association for the Advancement of Science-- 2015)

UN: ACCELERATING BIODIVERSITY LOSS A "FUNDAMENTAL THREAT" TO "SURVIVAL OF HUMANKIND" (U.N./IPBES-- 2013)

HUMAN ACTIVITY HAS PUSHED EARTH BEYOND 4 OF 9 "PLANETARY BOUNDARIES" INCLUDING SPECIES EXTINCTION RATE (Washington Post-- 2015)

EARTH HAS LOST 50% OF ITS WILDLIFE IN PAST 40 YEARS (WWF-- 2014)

INVERTEBRATE POPULATIONS DOWN 45% IN LAST 35 YEARS (U.K. Independent-- 2014)

WORLD'S SEABIRD POPULATIONS PLUMMET 70% IN 60 YEARS (U.K. Guardian-- 2015)

SALT-WATER FISH EXTINCTION SEEN BY 2048 (Science Magazine-- 2014)

E.O. WILSON, HARVARD: CURRENT RATE OF HUMAN ACTIVITY WILL RESULT IN 50% OF ALL SPECIES EXTINCT BY 2100. "I DON'T THINK THE WORLD CAN SUSTAIN THIS. DON'T SAVE THE BIOSPHERE AND WE'RE DOOMING OURSELVES." (U.K. Times-- 2014)

UN: EARTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS PUSHED TO BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS-- SUDDEN, IRREVERSIBLE, POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC CHANGES LOOMING (CBS/United Nations-- 2012)

SCIENTISTS WARN EARTH'S ENTIRE BIOSPHERE NEARING CATASTROPHIC "TIPPING POINT" (Nature-- 2012)

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN 300 MILLION YEARS-- MASS EXTINCTION "MAY BE INEVITABLE" (U.K. Guardian-- 2013)

ONE-FIFTH OF ALL INVERTEBRATE SPECIES FACING EXTINCTION: "EXTINCTION OF HUMANS COULD SOON FOLLOW" (IUCN/Zoological Society of London-- 2012)

60% of Large Herbivore Species Threatened with Extinction (American Association for the Advancement of Science-- 2015)

ONE QUARTER OF WORLD'S MARINE SPECIES IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION (U.K.

Independent-- 2015)

WORLD'S ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK OF COLLAPSE-- TIPPING POINTS NEAR (United Nations-- 2010)

IUCN RED LIST ANALYSIS: "LIFE ON EARTH IS UNDER SERIOUS THREAT" (IUCN-- 2009)

2008 RED LIST RELEASED: 50% OF MAMMAL SPECIES IN DECLINE, UP TO 36% OF MAMMALS THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION; 40% OF ALL STUDIED SPECIES THREATENED (2008-- Agence France Presse/IUCN)

WORLD'S OCEANS FACING MASS EXTINCTION WITHIN ONE HUMAN GENERATION (Oxford Univ., IUCN, IPSO-- 2011)

Half Of All Species May Be Extinct In Our Lifetime (Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences-- 2008)

Earth Faces Catastrophic Loss of Species (U.K. Independent-- 2006)

I see that most of you on these committees are NRA and/or hunters, yourselves. However, 90% of us do not kill wildlife and are wildlife watchers. You have a profound and sacred responsibility to protect wildlife and our public lands, justly for all citizens, including fairly representing majority non-hunter rights to govern our commons. This legislation would criminalize citizens if we take pictures of our wildlife being abused and tortured and killed illegally or legally, so the public can know what the state is promoting. We all know that laws are often not just or moral. Hunters and trappers take pictures of their exploits constantly. Grinning entitled over some dead carcass thrill kill is a hunter tradition. They themselves take videos of dog packs killing coyotes and wolves, shooting bears chased to exhaustion from trees and letting the dogs attack them as reward when they are wounded, posting them on you tube. This is the kind of hell this legislation protects - and we are not allowed similar rights?

We are promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have stolen citizen quality of life on our own public lands. Now you want us to sit back and do nothing as you destroy our life support system and our health. Mangle our wild friends in traps, harass and kill them for profit. We have no equal right to remove even one living animal from our public lands for \$5. Trapping is the only for profit business that can take as much as they can in the most cruel, bludgeoning, crushing, exposure in medieval traps – and you want us to do nothing to claim our long overdue rights or to protect our own commons?

Who do you represent and what is your legacy? You have combined animal abuse with citizen abuse.

As attorney Justin Marceau, Animal Legal Defense Fund professor of law at the University of Denver, said of this attempt: "The idea you're going to regulate who can take photos on public land is pretty shocking. You don't see laws like that anywhere in the free world." Killers free to do what they want – the rest of us criminalized for viewing, photographing and interacting peacefully with our wildlife on our public lands, 94% purchased by non-hunters.

The control of our commons, control of our wildlife for killing, excluding the non-hunting majority of citizens, is a structural anti-democratic injustice set up by the legislature when they designated killing licenses as the main funding source of the DNR. This has made the DNR into primarily a killing business, excluding and disenfranchising the majority of citizens in this state from protecting or even participating in our commonwealth.

**According to the World Wildlife Fund and London Zoological Society surveys, wildlife populations have plummeted over 50% in just 40 years (1970-2010). The major causes of this disaster are two-fold: Hunting is second only to habitat destruction as the driving forces, according to their extensive**



**research.** Habitat destruction is also linked to hunting as in lead shot destroying over a million songbirds, annually, in Wisconsin alone (Audubon Society reports), and causing painful death throughout the chain of life.

Scientists from major universities, Princeton, Stanford, Duke and Berkeley are warning us that with climate change, warming oceans that will be empty of saltwater fish by 2048, and collapsing life support systems, we humans are the "walking dead" and may exit the planetary stage early on in a mass extinction entirely created by ourselves, the human species.

Continuing on this path of recruiting trapping and killing of our wildlife is madness. A \$5 license extinction sale is to keep the power exclusively in the grip of those who hound, trap, harass and destroy our commons.

Wisconsin has the lowest warden to hunter ratio of any state and yet it encourages the most animal abuse. There is one warden to every 300 square miles. Making laws like ag gag laws to prevent citizens from protecting their own commons, is a crime against the majority for a small minority who enjoy the most cruelties – trapping, baiting, running packs of dogs on wildlife year-round statewide, and captive hounding of our native wildlife in fenced enclosures.

This attempt at citizen repression and legalizing animal torture, trapping, and hounding in this state endangers us all and heaps shame on the state of Wisconsin.

Recruiting 4,241 new trappers and training them 2013-2014 in just two years, on \$5 incentive new licenses to kill all they want on our public lands 24 hours day and night 6 to 7 months of the year through the birthing season of April is a disaster. By proportion each person in this state would have 1.3 acres of public land use of our 8 million plus acres of public land purchased 94% by non-hunters. But now trappers each have 540 acres to kill out. I live on 72 acres of wooded area. I served on the Conservation Congress trapping committee as a Dane county delegate 1999-2002. It would be very easy for a trapper to kill out the few raccoons, one possum and two foxes that remain in my woods after the surrounding hunters killed out all of my coyotes and the beaver family in the adjoining creek. It could be cleared of life in less than a week. So 540 acres could easily be killed out and the entire state cleared of life in the 6-7 months of one year.

This is extremely dangerous for human health. Strong diversity of life makes for strong healthy ecosystems. What is left in Wisconsin is an explosion of mice (with intensively trapped natural mid-range predators like fox, bobcats, and coyotes) and the usual imbalance of the DNR largest cash crop – an inflated deer herd with CWD in 25% of the 2-year old bucks – the few that reach that age before they are killed for heads on walls.

Mice are the main host of the Lyme disease tick newts. Deer are the hosts of adult Lyme disease ticks. Wisconsin is a hotbed of Lyme disease which can cripple and kill. One doctor on the People's Pharmacy said that his Lyme disease went undiagnosed for several years resulting in him having a heart transplant. There is no reliable human test. One is bitten again and again. I have Lyme disease. My dog has Lyme disease. The DNR is endangering public health with its extermination of wildlife for its own agenda and special interests.

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**"Don't save the biosphere and we are dooming ourselves," (E. O. Wilson, Harvard biologist)**

