

Lou Mansolillo

From: John Gibble <gibblejohn449@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:56 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Stacey Ober; Blaine Grove
Subject: House Bill 7294-Captive Hunting Comments

Dear Chairman Bennett and Members of the House Environmental and Natural Resources Committee:

On Behalf of the Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation and our two member clubs located in Rhode Island, we request that House Bill 7294 be amended as outlined below. Our clubs consist of substantial acreage dedicated to conservation and training of beagles for hunting and field trials. These clubs manage their grounds to encourage sufficient populations of cottontail rabbits. Our hounds follow the scent of these rabbits, but do not catch or harm them. Without the amendment to subsection (d), we fear our activities could be prohibited by this bill if enacted.

Our field trial events draw competitors from throughout the Northeast United States, supporting local economies with purchases of overnight lodging, meals, fuel, and other goods and services.

Amending subsection (d) as follows:

(d) The term captive hunting shall not apply to the release of upland game birds for hunting

*whether on public property or on private property properly licensed by the department as a shooting preserve, **or to field trials conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Title and property licensed by the department.***

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Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation

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