

Lou Mansolillo

From: Volunteer Services for Animals <vsaheadquarters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Cortvriend, Terri-Denise; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Spears, Tina L.; Rep. Fenton-Fung, Barbara Ann; Rep. Morgan, Patricia L.
Cc: Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Marszalkowski, Alex; Rep. Kazarian, Katherine S.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; rep-chippendale@rilegislature.com; Rep. Costantino, Gregory J.; rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.
Subject: H7562 Fur Bearing Animals

Dear Chairman Bennett and Honorable members of the House Committee on the Environment & Natural Resources:

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) writes to express opposition to H7562 which we believe will give RIDEM the added ability to make decisions that will result in being able to kill river otters. We believe that this legislation is a resurfacing of the otter issue and a similar bill harmful to the river otters that failed in 2014.

VSA testified in opposition to that failed bill in 2014 and continues to strongly oppose legislation that puts the river otters at risk.

Traps such as the steel jaw leghold trap will be one of the means used to kill otters by drowning them. No explanation or reasons have been given to the public to explain the need for this change.

Do we really want to return to the days of the commonplace use of the steel jaw leghold trap which can still be used by obtaining a special permit from RIDEM?

Please don't harm Rhode Island's wildlife by passing H7562.

Thank you for permitting VSA to submit testimony via email and please hold this testimony for the hearing.

Very respectfully yours,

Joanne Rongo

VSA Chair writing for the Board of Directors, Volunteers & Supporters

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) founded 1979

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**Please adopt from a shelter or a humane organization.
Spay/neuter is the humane response to overpopulation.
Factory farmed animals are among the most abused animals on Earth.
Thank you for helping VSA save lives and change minds.**