

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

P. O. Box 8763, Cranston, RI 02920

www.defendersofanimals.org 401-461-1922

Email: dennis@defendersofanimals.org

Against House Bill No. 7730

April 1, 2024

**House Environment &
Natural Resources Committee Members
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you vote against House Bill H-7730 by Representatives Chippendale and Bennett.

The legislation would allow the taking of wild turkeys by using a crossbow.

According to many experts, “many turkeys are shot but never tracked down mainly because the vital target area is small and hard to get a clean kill via crossbow hunting especially at increased distances.”

The fact of the matter is that the killing zone in a turkey’s body is about the size of a baseball.

The experts also note that a strutting turkey puffs up its feathers, and this makes it hard to identify the target.

What can go wrong with trying to kill a turkey via bowhunting?

You hit the turkey, but only succeed in injuring it. A motivated turkey can take off with your bolt sticking out of it and hide. Turkeys may have to be shot twice to make sure a killing blow is delivered.

Do elected officials want to be responsible for what is tantamount to animal cruelty by passing this legislation?

We do not believe that your constituents are in favor of increasing the possibilities of animal cruelty in Rhode Island. Please vote against House Bill H-7730.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**