

Attachment 2
3/9/16

Juanita Budell

From: patrick carney [nafatrapp@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:07 AM
To: Juanita Budell
Subject: Re: Senate Bill

Hi Juanita. Would you please forward this to the Senate Resources & Environment Committee?

Please, and thank you very much.

Dear Senate Resources & Environment Committee,

My name is Patrick B. Carney. I am currently the president of the Idaho Trappers Association (ITA). The ITA has been working with the IDF&G to make trappers' education mandatory. We've had several incidents over the last few years that could have been prevented with mandatory trappers' education. We as trappers are under the spotlight of public opinion and perception. When someone does something negative involving traps, the media turns it into a club to beat us with. The price of fur, and the wolf issue brought an influx of new people into trapping. Unfortunately, it has also showed us that we need to set up mandatory trappers' education, as the new trappers had no idea of what to do and what not to do. Many states have mandatory trappers' education for that reason, and to defend trapping.

HB462 will let anyone take predatory, and unprotected birds and animals by trapping and other means without regard to their experience or manner of take. That's a recipe for disaster for those of us that love to trap and don't want to be regulated out of business. There are counties here in Idaho where you cannot trap fox on your own property because of the public perception of trapping, even though it has been proven by many studies that trapping predators increases game birds, game animals and prevents diseases from spreading to our own family pets and children. There are some places where trapping is not compatible with the surroundings, such as trapping coyotes around subdivisions even when coyotes are taking cats and small dogs from yards. That requires someone with experience to find out where the coyotes are coming from, and catch them where people's dogs and cats won't be harmed.

Let's not allow untrained home owners without experience to set traps in their neighborhoods and potentially kill or maim pets, or worse, set the wrong type of traps and injure someone. Let's not allow that to happen to trapping in Idaho.

As for letting anyone trap muskrats in irrigation ditches without training, we would have the same problems regarding pets and untrained trappers. Out of state trappers could come in and trap without paying for a license or having to have trappers' education, which is not a good idea. As for trapping on their own property, or property where they live, IDF&G already has a way for them to take out animals that are causing problems with their property. IDF&G will issue a kill permit to anyone that can show just cause to need one, or they will give them the name of a trapper in their area that can help them out.

If someone wants to trap muskrats in ditches or on their own property for the fur, then let them get licensed with the proper training to do it right. We make landowners get licensed to hunt big game on their own property. There is no difference. While this may be well intentioned, it will cause more problems than it will cure.