



Dear Animal Advocates,

ACTION ALERT: Time to defend our black bears! Public hearing for 2026's bear hunting bill ([SB 146](#)) is **Friday, February 20, 2026 at 11am.**

Please submit your written testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 146

TALKING POINTS:

SB 146 would create **legal loopholes that could potentially allow killing sprees of black bears** by eroding current rules that limit when lethal force can be used against bears, even in situations where it's not truly needed. This bill **removes the requirement that farmers must try nonlethal methods before resorting to killing** bears doing damage to crops. SB 146 also adds a provision that if a bear did damage the prior year, a farmer can kill the bear the next year, with no requirement to show proof that it's the same bear. These loopholes coupled with existing law that allows the farmer to outsource the killing permit is a trophy hunt in disguise.

The best available **science has demonstrated that hunting bears will NOT protect public safety, nor will hunting reduce human-bear conflicts**, and that simple, non-lethal steps — like removing food attractants (securing trash, removing birdfeeders), protecting livestock with electric fencing (which is highly effective with bears), and keeping dogs on leash — are the most effective ways to avoid problems with bears. Instead of turning to outdated and ineffective tactics like hunting, the state should invest in education and proven preventative measures to help people and bears safely coexist. **Bear hunting is highly controversial, perpetuates cruelty, and isn't in keeping with Connecticut residents' values.** DEEP's cruel policy already mandates killing orphaned cubs under 60 pounds -- our bears don't need loopholes that effectively allow for a trophy hunt on top of that.