



February 6, 2024

The Honorable David M. Bennett  
Chairman, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT HB 7294 - An Act Relating To Fish And Wildlife -- Field Trials And Shooting Preserves -- Captive Hunting Prohibited**

Dear Chairman Bennett:

On behalf of The Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (“RIVMA”), I hereby submit this letter to support HB 7294 - An Act Relating To Fish And Wildlife -- Field Trials And Shooting Preserves -- Captive Hunting Prohibited, by Representative Slater, prohibiting “canned hunting”. RIVMA understands this practice to necessitate the capture and transport of wild or feral animals. This is extremely stressful to the animal and should only be done for scientific or educational reasons or for population management. Additionally, banning this practice will aid in protecting the public from dangerous exotic animals or protect native wildlife populations from the spread of diseases. The rabies epizootic was helped along by transport of racoons for hunting in areas where there were already racoons.

RIVMA believes that the canned hunts are inhumane given the need to capture and transport animals for the purpose of the hunt. Further, Rhode Island farmers are concerned that feral pigs will be transported to the state and will escape and establish a local population with disastrous results for farmers and the environment.

RIVMA appreciates your consideration of our views and applaud the efforts of Representative Slater. Thank you for your consideration and contact me with any questions (401) 490-0004.

Sincerely,

Leonard Lopes /s/

Leonard Lopes  
President, The Victor Group