

**D. MSPCA Testimony
to the Joint
Committee on the
Judiciary, 4/10/2007**

April 10, 2007

Joint Committee on the Judiciary

S. 860 – An Act to Prohibit Internet Hunting

MSPCA Position: Support

Originally developed in Texas, Internet hunting is a “click and shoot” mechanism that operates like a computer-based Internet hunting game, but kills real animals. If this were to start in Massachusetts, people could pay a fee and be allowed to point and shoot a rifle via remote control using their computer. The remote control would then be linked to a platform with a rifle (which could be located in any state) and camera that would be remotely aimed at animals.

The MSPCA supports this bill because of the reasons outlined below, and respectfully recommends that the Committee give it a favorable report.

Internet hunting is unethical and unsportsmanlike:

Internet hunting violates the ethical standards claimed to be held by hunters, as internet hunting does not constitute “fair chase,” distances the hunter entirely from a predator-based knowledge of nature, and denies the animal the “respect” that hunters avow they feel for them.

Internet hunting poses safety concerns:

This activity also poses safety concerns to anything that crosses the gun’s path including non-target wildlife and people. The likelihood of maiming or harming an animal and not killing it immediately increases with this activity and animals may suffer as a result.

Other states have already taken action to prevent Internet hunting:

The following states have **passed** legislation banning Internet hunting: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The following states have **pending** legislation banning Internet hunting: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Oregon.