

**G. Miscellaneous
Materials**

1. MSPCA

- a. Testimony to N.H. House of Representatives regarding a similar ban - 2/21/2006**

Testimony by: Linda Huebner
In reference to: House Bill Number 1420
An Act Prohibiting Remote Control and Internet Hunting
Presented to: New Hampshire House of Representatives
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
Date: February 21, 2006

My name is Linda Huebner. I am the Regional Program Manager of the New England Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The HSUS is the country's largest animal protection organization. On behalf of the over 60,000 New Hampshire members and contributors to The HSUS, I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of House bill 1420.

House bill 1420 will make it a misdemeanor to engage in computer-assisted remote/Internet hunting, provide game, or offer to sell game for people to take in such ways.

HB 1420 was introduced in reaction to the development of a click and shoot mechanism that operates like an Internet computer game. This operation based in Texas – live-shot.com – allowed clients to point and shoot a rifle via remote control. Live-shot.com was linked to a platform with a rifle and camera that could be remotely aimed at animals in what amounts to a video-monitored canned hunt. While Texas passed legislation banning Internet hunting in 2005, effectively stopping this activity on live-shot.com, an internet hunting system could be started or accessed virtually anywhere across the country – including New Hampshire.

Internet hunting is unethical and unsporting. It doesn't take a very strict definition of 'sportsmanship' to see that this practice, if allowed to proceed, would violate every ethical standard that hunters profess. It would involve no hunting skill whatsoever, and would distance the hunter entirely from the act of killing, denying animals any of the 'respect' that hunters avow they feel for their prey.

This activity also poses serious safety concerns. Allowing anyone who logs into a website to fire .22 caliber rounds into a hunting preserve is a danger to anything that crosses the gun's path including non-target wildlife as well as people.

Since the inception of Internet hunting, 13 states have passed preemptive legislation banning this egregious activity including neighboring states of Maine and Vermont, as well as: New York, California, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. New Hampshire would be in good company if this legislation, which is also supported by New Hampshire Fish & Game and many hunters, became law.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on remote control and Internet hunting in New Hampshire. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend your hearing on this bill and appreciate your willingness to review this testimony ahead of time. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 802-368-2790 or lhuebner@hsus.org.

1. MSPCA

b. Press Releases

**Internet Hunting Bills and Laws
Updated 5/9/06**

Under Consideration in 2006 (2):

**Delaware
Louisiana**

Signed into Law (21)

**Alabama
California
Kentucky
Maine
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico**

**New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Vermont
Virginia
West Virginia
Wisconsin**

Alabama

S.B. 157 Makes canned hunting of exotics and internet hunting illegal. Signed into law.

Delaware

H.S. 1 was substituted for H.B. 83 (George) prohibits internet hunting and trapping. This Act bans internet and remote controlled hunting in Delaware. Pursuant to this Act, no person shall shoot at or kill any bird or animal in this State with any gun or other device operated by remote control or accessed via an internet connection. Accessing, regulating access to, or regulating the control of a remotely controlled gun or device capable of being operated in violation of this subsection shall be prima facie evidence of an offense under this Act. Introduced in 2005.

Georgia

H.B. 1488 makes it unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, or association to engage in computer assisted remote hunting or provide or operate a facility that allows others to engage in computer assisted remote hunting if the wild animal or wildlife being hunted or shot is located in this state.

Illinois

H.B. 2065 (Mendoza) Provides that a person may not operate, provide, sell, use, or offer to operate, provide, sell, or use any computer software or service that allows a person not physically present at the hunt site to remotely control a weapon that could be used to take wildlife by remote operation, including, but not limited to, weapons or devices set up to fire through the use of the Internet or through a remote control device. On 5/29/05 it passed the House. Will be considered in the Senate in 2006.

Kentucky

H.B. 289 (Webb) prohibits any person from hunting or harvesting wildlife in Kentucky by means of computer-assisted remote hunting or providing or operating a facility that allows others to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting. On 4/21/06 it was signed into law by the governor.

Louisiana

H.B. 49 and H.B. 52 Prohibits internet hunting. Introduced March 6, 2006.

Maryland

S.B. 521/H.B. 968 prohibit a person from killing a bird or animal in the state with a gun or other device operated or accessed via an internet connection. S.B. 521 passed the senate on 2/23.

Mississippi

S.B. 2041 (Sen. Lynn Posey) Prohibits a person from engaging in computer-assisted remote hunting. Signed into law.

Nebraska:

L.B. 786 (Sen. Mines) Prohibits anyone from hunting through the Internet or hosting a hunt through the Internet or otherwise enable another person to hunt through the Internet. Any conservation officer or any person specifically employed or designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service may offer to host or otherwise enable another person to hunt through the Internet for the sole purpose of obtaining evidence of a violation of this section. Any firearm, computer, equipment, appliance, or conveyance used in violation of this section is contraband and shall be confiscated and forfeited to the state upon seizure by law enforcement authorities. Any person who violates this act is guilty of a Class II misdemeanor and shall pay a fine of up to seventy-five dollars, and shall not hunt, fish, or trap in this state for not less than one year from the date of sentencing. Each unlawful transaction, offer, or transfer of wildlife for any consideration, possession of contraband with the intent to transact, offer, or transfer wildlife for any consideration in connection with hunting through the Internet is a separate offense. Any person who violates this act shall not hunt, fish, or trap for a period of not less than one year from the date of sentencing.

New Hampshire

H.B. 1420 (Nowe) Makes the offering for sale or assisting in the taking of game by use of remote control or Internet hunting a misdemeanor. On 4/28/06 it was signed into law by the governor.

New Jersey

A. 764 (Gordon, McKeon, Gusciora, Conaway, Voss, Stanley) and S. 2670 prohibit computer-assisted remote hunting. A. 764 was sent to the governor on 3/20/06.

New Mexico

S.B. 157_ A person shall not: (1) engage in computer-assisted remote hunting; (2) provide or operate facilities for the purpose of computer-assisted remote hunting; (3) create, maintain, provide, advertise or sell computer software or an internet web site for the purpose of computer-assisted remote hunting. 3/6/06 signed into law.

South Carolina

H. 3879 (Rep. Michael Pitts (R, 14) Makes it illegal for a person to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting or provide or operate facilities for computer-assisted remote hunting if the animal being hunted is located in the State of South Carolina. Passed the House.

Bills signed into law in 2005:

**California
Maine
Michigan
Minnesota
New York
North Carolina
Pennsylvania**

**Tennessee
Texas
Vermont
Virginia
West Virginia
Wisconsin**

California - Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 672

S.B. 1028 (Bowen) makes it unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of this state to take birds or mammals, located both in state and out of state, by means of computer-assisted remote hunting. The bill would also make it unlawful to establish or operate a computer-assisted remote hunting site in this state for the purpose of permitting the taking of any bird or mammal. This bill would make it unlawful to possess or confine any bird or mammal in furtherance of an activity prohibited by the bill, and would also make it unlawful to import or export any bird or mammal, or any part thereof, taken by computer-assisted remote hunting, as provided. Signed into law on 10/7/05.

Maine - Sec. 1. 7 MRSA Section 1344, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 765, Section 3

L.D. 50 (H.P. 46) (Carr) makes it a class E crime for the owner or operator of a commercial shooting area or a commercial large game shooting area from using a website or a service or business via any other means that permits a person to hunt large game, wild animals or game birds that are located in this State through the use of a computer-controlled gun, shooting apparatus or any other remote-control device when the person using the website, service or business is physically removed from the immediate vicinity of the large game, wild animal or game bird. On 5/10/05 it was signed into law.

Michigan - Amends 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.1 to 750.568) by adding section 236b.

H.B. 4465 (Rep. Glenn Steil) & S.B. 373 (Sen. Michelle McManus) prohibits internet hunting. S.B. 373 signed into law on 9/21/05.

Minnesota - Sec. 30. (97B.115)

H.F. 847/S.F. 789: Provision added to the Omnibus Senate and House Game and Fish bill: Sec. 21. (97B.115) (computer-assisted remote hunting prohibition.) No person shall operate, provide, sell, use or offer to operate, provide, sell or use any computer software or service that allows a person, not physically present at the site, to remotely control a weapon that could be used to take any wild animal by remote operation, including, but not limited to, weapons or devices set up to fire through the use of the internet or through a remote control device. Signed into law on 6/3/05.

New York - SECTION 11-1906

A. 7032a (Glick) and S. 2822 (Marcellino) prohibits the shooting or spearing of targets or animals from a remote location over the internet. On 9/16/05 A.7032a & S. 2822 were signed into law.

North Carolina - SECTION 113-291.1A

H.B. 772 (Williams) makes it a class 1 misdemeanor for a person to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting or provide or operate a facility that allows others to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting if the wild animal or wild bird being hunted or shot is located within the state. On 5/26/05 it was signed into law.

Pennsylvania - Section 1. Chapter 76, Subchapter D 76 of Title 18
H.B. 1435 (Gergely) makes it a misdemeanor to harvest any animal in the Commonwealth with a computer-assisted remote hunting devices. On 11/1/05 it was signed into law.

Tennessee - Section 70-4-501
H.B. 1268 (Tidwell) and S.B. 1505 (Jackson) makes it a class A misdemeanor for a person to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting or to provide or operate facilities for computer-assisted remote hunting if the wildlife being hunted is located in the state. On 4/22/05 S.B. 1505 signed into law.

Texas - Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 62.002
H.B. 2026 (Todd Smith) Prohibits the use computer-assisted equipment for the hunting or birds or mammals from remote locations. Became law without governor's signature on 6/20/05.

Vermont - Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. Section 4715
S. 166 (Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs) Prohibits taking a wild animal or captive animal using a remote-control hunting device regardless of the location of the animal taken; establishing or operating a remote-control hunting site in Vermont; importing, exporting, or possessing a wild animal or captive animal, or part thereof, taken by a remote-control hunting device. Allows a person who is physically impaired to the degree that he or she cannot operate a device allowed for taking of game under Vermont law may obtain a permit to take game in Vermont with a device which is in the immediate vicinity of the permittee and which the permittee operates using remote-control technology other than the internet. On 6/7/05 it was signed into.

Virginia - Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-530.3,
H.B. 2273 (Oder) & S.B. 1083 (Ticer) prohibits operating, providing, selling, or using any device or service that allows a person, not physically present, to remotely control a firearm, weapon, or device to hunt any live animal or bird, or offering to do so. Violations are Class 1 misdemeanors and will result in revocation of any hunting license for between three and five years. On 3/20/05 they were signed into law.

West Virginia - Section 20-2-5
H.B. 2890 (DeLong) makes it unlawful to hunt or conduct hunts for a fee where the hunter is not in the same physical location as the wildlife. Signed into law on 5/2/05

Wisconsin - SECTION 1. 95.55 (5) (bn)
A.B. 179 (Gunderson) & S.B. 207 (Kedzie) prohibits any hunter from shooting at a wild animal on a deer or game farm without being physically in possession of the weapon. On 8/15/05 A.B. 179 signed into law.



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Contact:

Brian Adams, MSPCA Manager of Public Relations – 617-541-5120

Scott Giacoppo, MSPCA Deputy Director, Advocacy - 617-541-5104 – 617-448-8997 cell

For Immediate Release:

**Computer Games Come To Life And Kill Live Animals
New bill would prevent hunting through the Internet**

Boston – On January 10th, Senator Robert Creedon (D–Brockton), working with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, filed a bill that would prohibit a gruesome new method of hunting, often referred to as Internet hunting.

Already illegal in 22 states, this computer-assisted form of hunting operates like a game but kills real animals. The “hunter” pays a fee to watch a feeding station on their computer screen. When an animal appears on screen the hunter can point and shoot a remotely-operated rifle with a click of their mouse.

Across the country, hunting groups and humane organizations have decried this activity as unethical and unsportsmanlike. The National Rifle Association, the country’s largest pro-hunting organization, has publicly opposed Internet hunting, believing the practice takes away the element of fair chase ascribed to by hunters.

"To refer to this as ‘hunting’ demeans the sport," states Senator Creedon. "There is only one word to describe this practice; despicable! This legislation makes it a crime to participate in this cruel and inhumane activity."

“This is an issue that both sides of the hunting debate can agree on,” states Scott Giacoppo, the Deputy Director of Advocacy for the MSPCA. “It allows people to needlessly and senselessly kill an animal from their desktop. Internet hunting also raises serious safety concerns including the ability to shoot non-target wildlife and people that cross the computer screen. In addition, animals face a greater risk of suffering from the wounds inflicted by remote ‘hunters’.”

The proposed bill would make it against the law to create, maintain or engage in a computer-assisted Internet hunting program in Massachusetts or to operate a shooting range for this purpose.

The MSPCA-Angell is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine. Founded in 1868, it is the second-oldest humane society in the United States. Services include animal protection and adoption, advocacy, humane education, law enforcement and the highest-quality veterinary care available anywhere in the world. The MSPCA-Angell provides direct hands-on care for more than 250,000 animals each year through its seven Animal Care and Adoption Centers and three world-class Angell Animal Medical Centers. For more information, visit www.mspca.org.

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Giacoppo, Scott

From: Holmquist, Kara L,
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 10:00 PM
To: Giacoppo, Scott
Subject: Press Release - The HSUS Praises Idaho Governor for Signing Bill to Pull the Plug on Internet Hunting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Humane Society of the United States Praises Idaho Governor for Signing Bill to Pull the Plug on Internet Hunting

WASHINGTON (April 3, 2007) - The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal welfare group, today praised Idaho Governor Butch Otter for signing legislation banning the practice of killing live animals over the Internet, an appalling form of trophy hunting opposed by sportsmen and animal welfare advocates alike.

Senate Bill 1128, introduced by Senator David Langhorst (D-16th), Senator Gary Schroeder (R-6th), and Senator Clint Stennett (D-25th) restricts the shooting at, or killing, any bird or animal in Idaho with any gun or other device accessed via the Internet.

"The Humane Society of the United States is very grateful to the legislature for passing this important bill and to Governor Otter for signing the legislation," said Michael Markarian, executive vice president of The HSUS. "Traditional hunters know there's no sport in shooting an animal remotely while lying in bed and wearing camouflage pajamas."

Facts

* Hunting via the Internet involves fees of more than \$1,500 to schedule a session and place an order for a deer, antelope or other animal. The hunter then logs on to a website at an appointed time and watches a feeding station on the computer screen. The animal ordered is herded in front of the camera by on-site employees and the hunter uses his mouse to line the victim up in the on-screen crosshairs. A click of the mouse fires the rifle. The hunter's "trophy" is then shipped to his or her home.

* The controversial practice originated in Texas with the launch of a web site, www.Live-Shot.com, that allowed hunters to pay a fee and shoot captive animals on an exotic game ranch from many miles away with the click of a mouse or the few strokes of a keyboard.

* The HSUS has been active in advocating for state legislation to combat Internet hunting - 26 states, including Texas, now ban the practice.

Timeline

- * 2007 - In addition to Idaho's ban, eight states have bills pending to outlaw Internet hunting, including Illinois, Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware, Iowa, Nebraska, and Oregon.

- * 2005-2006 - 25 states enact bans on Internet hunting.

- * June 2005 - Texas bans the practice of Internet hunting, effectively shutting down Live-Shot.com.

- * April 13, 2005 - The first federal bill to outlaw interstate participation in computer-assisted remote hunting is introduced to Congress by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA).

- * March 2005 - Virginia becomes the first state to outlaw the practice of Internet hunting.

- * January 2005 - Entrepreneur John Lockwood starts Live-Shot.com web site which offers hunters the opportunity to kill animals online.

Media Contact: Tracey McIntire, 301-548-7793, tmcintire@hsus.org

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization - backed by 10 million Americans, or one of every 30. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty -- On the web at www.humanesociety.org <<http://www.humanesociety.org>> .

The Humane Society of the United States 2100 L St., NW Washington, DC 20037
www.hsus.org <<http://vocuspr.vocus.com/VocusPR30/www.hsus.org>>
Promoting the Protection of All Animals



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Date: July 27, 2007

To: Office of the Honorable Deval Patrick

From: Carter Luke
Chief Executive Officer
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
350 S. Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130
617-541-5005
CLuke@mspca.org

Re: Senate Bill 860

Yesterday, Senate Bill 860, An Act Prohibiting Internet Hunting, was enacted by both chambers of the General Court and has been laid before the Governor. We hope that the Governor will sign this bill into law.

This bill has widespread support among a diverse range of interest groups and no opposition. If signed, Massachusetts would be the 34th state to ban the practice of Internet Hunting.

Originally developed in Texas, Internet hunting is a computer-assisted form of hunting which operates like a game, but kills real animals. A person pays a fee to remotely ^{monitor} watch a feeding station via an Internet connection. When an animal appears on screen, the user can point and shoot a remotely-operated rifle with a click of the mouse.

Thirty-three states have already passed legislation banning Internet hunting: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Across the country, hunting groups and humane organizations have decried this activity as unethical and unsportsmanlike. Hunting organizations believe the practice takes away the element of fair chase, distances hunters ~~entirely~~ from a predator-based knowledge of nature, and denies animals the respect that hunters avow they feel for them.

This activity also poses safety concerns to anything that crosses the gun's path, including non-target wildlife and people. Due to the fact that this activity is conducted remotely, the likelihood of not killing animals immediately and instead maiming or harming them increases and animals may suffer as a result.

S. 860 will make it against the law to create, maintain or engage in a computer assisted Internet hunting program in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Pulls the Plug on Internet Hunting

(August 3, 2007) – The Humane Society of the United States, the nation’s largest animal protection organization, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the nation’s second-oldest humane society, today praised Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick for taking an important step to end “Internet hunting,” an appalling form of trophy hunting opposed by sportsmen and animal welfare advocates alike.

Senate Bill 2273 (formerly S.B. 860 and ~~S.D. 1452~~), introduced by Senator Robert Creedon, Jr. (D-2nd), makes it illegal to participate in or facilitate the killing of an animal via the Internet. Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill into law today.

“The Humane Society of the United States is very grateful to Governor Patrick and the legislature for putting an end to this pay-per-view slaughter,” said Michael Markarian, executive vice president of The HSUS. “Traditional hunters know there’s no sport in shooting an animal remotely while lying in bed and wearing camouflage pajamas.”

“This is an issue that has unified both sides of the hunting debate,” states Carter Luke, CEO for the MSPCA-Angell. “with the Governor’s signature, Massachusetts can now stand with much of the nation against this despicable activity.”

Thirty-four states now prohibit Internet hunting, and a federal bill was recently introduced in the U.S. Congress – H.R. 2711, the Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act – that would end Internet hunting nationwide.

Facts

- Hunting via the Internet involves fees of more than \$1,500 to schedule a session and place an order for a deer, antelope or other animal. The hunter then logs on to a website at an appointed time and watches a feeding station on the computer screen. The animal ordered is herded in front of the camera by on-site employees and the hunter uses his mouse to line the victim up in the on-screen crosshairs. A click of the mouse fires the rifle. The hunter’s “trophy” is then shipped to his or her home.
- The controversial practice originated in Texas with the launch of a web site, www.Live-Shot.com, that allowed hunters to pay a fee and shoot captive animals on an exotic game ranch from many miles away with the click of a mouse or the few strokes of a keyboard.
- The HSUS has been active in advocating for state legislation to combat Internet hunting – 34 states, including Texas, now ban the practice.

Timeline

- 2007 – Illinois legislature bans Internet hunting. The bill awaits signature by the governor.

- 2007 – Massachusetts, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, Delaware, and Oregon ban Internet hunting.
- 2005-2006 – 25 states enact bans on Internet hunting.
- June 2005 – Texas bans the practice of Internet hunting, effectively shutting down Live-Shot.com.
- March 2005 – Virginia becomes the first state to outlaw the practice of Internet hunting.
- January 2005 – Entrepreneur John Lockwood starts Live-Shot.com web site which offers hunters the opportunity to kill animals online.
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Media Contact: Kathy Covey, 301-258-3126, kcovey@humanesociety.org

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