February 13, 2020

Public Input Coordinator

Species Conservation Policy Branch – Wildlife Section

300 Water St.

5th Floor, North Tower

Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Dear Public Input Coordinator

**RE: ERO # 019-1112 Proposed Changes to black bear hunting regulations**

On behalf of the Midland/Penetanguishene Field Naturalists Club I am writing to express our concerns regarding a reinstatement of the spring bear hunt in Ontario. The following points outline reasons why we feel this hunt should not be allowed:

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| * Bear cubs will continue to be orphaned if the hunt becomes permanent. While it’s currently against the law to kill cubs and mother bears accompanied by cubs, mother bears often leave their cubs in trees when searching for food. If a mother is killed, her cubs will likely die slowly of starvation or be eaten by predators.
* Hunting bears doesn’t improve human safety. Stopping human-bear conflict is achieved by removing access to garbage, barbeques, and other attractants.
* Bears have low reproduction rates, meaning the survival of adult females is vital for the species.
* Even the economic argument for allowing the hunt is weak. The government has said the economic impact would be neutral or positive, but has provided no evidence to support this claim.

Our club strongly opposes the continuation of the proposed spring bear hunt, and we hope you will take our concerns seriously.Sincerely,Susan HirstPresidentMidland/Penetanguishene Field Naturalists Club |

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