



THE LEAGUE  
OF  
HUMANE VOTERS®  
OF NEW YORK  
POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

**MEMO OF OPPOSITION TO A3216/S4119; A238/S1721; A1299; S2643; A3550; A4281**

**BILLS that reduce the hunting age to 12 from 14 for “big game,” expand the use of crossbows, and provide longer or additional hunting seasons, and other provisions.**

It has long been believed by wildlife managers that the introduction of hunting (killing animals for pleasure) – and profit – is best done at an early age to keep a dying business thriving into the future.

LOHV®/NY New York strongly opposes this reckless use of children, abuse of animals, and the negative impacts on the environment and nonhunting public. Clearly, the objective of lowering the hunting age to 12 from 14 for big game is to increase the number of permits sold, as well as increase the sale of firearms and ammunition, and bows and arrows, especially crossbows. Hunting permit sales raise the state’s apportionment of the firearms excise tax, as well as enhance the firearms and bow and arrow industries’ profits, which in turn feed both federal and state wildlife management divisions of government. The specific beneficiaries are the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and, in NY, the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW).

The management of wildlife to be targets for hunters should be obsolete in 2021. But for the fact that NYS **chooses** to accept Pittman-Robertson funds (excise taxes on firearms and ammunition and bows and arrows), hunting in NY would be relegated to the dustbin of history.

What is particularly shocking is that the General Fund provides millions of dollars to the Conservation Fund controlled by a board <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/566.html> whose purpose is loudly stated to be:

***Duties and Responsibilities***

- *Assist DEC's efforts to expand available sources of income for the conservation fund and provide advice toward the needs of various fish and wildlife programs.*
- *Encourage public participation in fishing, hunting and trapping and promote conservation and management of New York's natural resources.*

The fact that wild animals (individual animals with familial ties and lives to live) are still treated as “natural resources” for the killing is out of touch with public sentiment. NYS needs to treat our wildlife better and our children better. **We further ask that BOW not receive a penny of taxpayer dollars from the General Fund while they remain inextricably connected to the firearms and bow and arrow industries.**

It’s **truly shocking** to realize that the **real** job of wildlife managers is to increase hunting, thereby increasing the sales of firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows in order to receive a larger apportionment of the firearms excise tax. The NY public’s taxes should not be used for this gruesome enterprise.

**THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS®/NY STRONGLY OPPOSES:  
A3216/S4119; A238/S1721; A1299; S2643; A3550; A4281**

*The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.*