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Agency of Natural Resources

October 30, 2023

Representative Trevor Squirrell, Chair
Senator Mark A. MacDonald, Vice Chair
Senator Christopher Bray
Senator Virginia "Ginny" Lyons
Senator David Weeks
Representative Seth Bongartz
Representative Mark Higley
Representative Carol Ode
Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
Anthea Dexter-Cooper, Committee Counsel Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules
Charlene Dindo, Committee Assistant
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: Furbearing Species Rules

Dear LCAR members,

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is unable to submit a complete response to the memorandum from members of the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR), forwarded to the Department by Counsel Anthea Dexter-Cooper on October 26, 2023. LCAR members directed the Department to respond to the memorandum with proposed changes that it will recommend to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, no later than noon today (October 30, 2023). Unfortunately, the time allotted for response is simply not enough time for the Department to fully discuss the issues internally, consult with the Board, and formulate a complete response.

The Department has forwarded the LCAR October 26, 2023 memorandum to the Board and will meet with the Board on November 1, 2023 to discuss both memoranda received from legislative counsel and LCAR members.

Thank you for communicating your concerns with the Department and the Board and for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-595-3331 or

catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Catherine Gjessing

Catherine Gjessing
General Counsel

Cc: Christopher Herrick, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife
David Sausville, Wildlife Management Program Manager