



Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Chartered October 15, 1982

March 15, 2021

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Attn: Policy Analyst and Regulatory Coordinator

4016 West Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23230

Dear Members of the VDWR Board:

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society, the principal organization representing wildlife professionals across the Commonwealth, our Executive Board would like to express support for the proposed amendments regarding coyote and furbearer hunting contests (4VAC15-20-260). We believe the proposed amendment appropriately strengthens and supplements existing hunting regulations and further demonstrates the agency's commitment to sound wildlife management.

The Wildlife Society (TWS), an international association of over 10,000 wildlife professionals and students dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education, published a position statement in 2019 on "Wildlife Killing Contests" (see attached). Concerns enumerated in the position statement include the adverse effects of killing contests on the wildlife resource itself, the public appreciation of wildlife resources and the public perception of ethical hunting in general. The language and rationale for the proposed amendment is entirely consistent with the TWS position. Furthermore, the department's concern about the potential human health implications resulting from improper disposal of carcasses of out-of-state animals

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (435) 770-3265 if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. Dueser
President