

May 27, 2020

Dear members of the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee,

Thank you Chairman Howell and honorable members of the committee for considering my testimony on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our thousands of supporters across Michigan.

HSUS is supportive of the intent of House Bill 5558. The regulation of hunting guides across the state will help prevent the potential abuse of animals by ensuring that guides transparently report their activities and adhere to Michigan law.

We would recommend strengthening and clarifying the bill's language by specifying that anyone who maintains a bait station be designated as a guide as well. According to page 17 of the [2020 Michigan Black Bear Digest](#), it is legal for licensed hunters to maintain up to three bait stations, but for any other person to maintain up to twelve bait stations. Due to the fact that many of these stations are used to provide assistance to hunters, we believe that anyone maintaining a bait station for the purpose of providing assistance to hunters also be included under the umbrella of a hunting guide. Current law would potentially allow a guide to subcontract an unlimited number of employees who could establish and maintain up to twelve stations each. Limiting the number of bait stations allowed by guides and mandating that those stations be clearly reported would ensure that bear baiting is regulated fairly and transparently.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

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