



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

March 31, 2021

Dear Legislators and Staff:

Please see our attached letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that **Part X be omitted from S2508B**. We were overjoyed to see that it has been removed from the amended Budget Bill S2508C, and we thank you for your efforts to accomplish that.

We've are concerned that last-minute negotiations could result in the return of Part X, and/or appear in other sections of other budget bills, specifically S2505, S2506, S2507, and S2509. **If you can reach out to the Governor or Legislative Leaders to voice your concern about the inclusion of those provisions of law, it would be extremely helpful.**

We are again counting on you to ensure that **all language related to lowering the "big game" hunting age to 12 and allowing 12-year-olds to hunt with crossbows be deleted from the budget bills**. Additionally, we see that millions of dollars will go to "Conservation" without knowing specifically what is being funded. Our concern is that the Conservation Fund's Advisory Board's purpose is to promote fishing, hunting, and trapping. While the public is in dire need of help for basic living, we further hope that General Funds are not used for this lethal hobby.

Less than 3% of New York's population hunts, yet the Bureau of Wildlife exists to serve that population while they benefit from the excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows. Shockingly, twelve-year-olds can now hunt "small game" with semi-automatics (holding five rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber). We've been told by the Bureau of Wildlife within the DEC that modified **AK-47 and AR-15 rifles are used primarily by hunters for "big game."** It's clear that lowering the hunting age to 12 for big game will incentivize the acquisition, purchase and use of those terrifying weapons among a very young population.

It should be known as well that the NRA is now working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the FWS works closely with NY's Bureau of Wildlife. Please see the MOU between the FWS and the NRA here: [News Releases - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#).

We urge you to keep the budget from legalizing a lower hunting age and the expansion of crossbow use. We further urge that disbursements from the General Fund for this lethal hobby for less than 3% of New Yorkers be eliminated from the budget.

Thank you for your help to protect the New York public and New York wild animals!

Sincerely,

Anne Muller

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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.