Memorandum of Support

May 27, 2019

A.883 (Glick)/S.2519 (Krueger)

Purpose: This bill will prohibit canned shoots, which involve the killing, shooting, maiming or injuring of certain intentionally confined animals for sport, amusement or taking of a trophy. It would also restrict the supply of animals from zoos and game farms to canned hunting facilities.

Statement of Support: In the 40-page summary of the UN’s Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services released on May 6, 2019, the authors concluded that at least one million species of all varieties are in danger of extinction in the next few years due to human pressures and disruptions to the planet’s habitats and biomes. Many more may follow — all losses will have devastating consequences for humanity as well as the rest of life on the planet.

That being said, no animal can be presumed to be non-endangered and expendable, to have its life wasted in the callousness of such a grossly profit-derived endeavor as a canned hunt. This practice involves trapping animals by fences or cages so they can be easily killed for pleasure without having any chance to escape. A wide range of animals are allowed to be killed in this manner due to a lack of protection by federal and state law, including animals which were raised in zoos and game farms and sold to canned hunting facilities.

Outlawing canned shoots can also prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (similar to “mad cow” disease), which has been linked to captive deer farms.

Hunting originated to provide needed sustenance and survival tools for our hunter-gatherer forbearers. And some peoples in the world still hunt in this manner. But to allow it to persist and proliferate simply to satisfy the vanity and entertainment needs of the wealthy is an affront to all we should stand for as a humane, ethical society.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter strongly urges your support of A.883/S.2519