

COPY

June 26, 1972

*Leg-Animal*

[REDACTED]  
Topeka, Kansas 66611

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your letter of June 24 in which you brought to my attention your opposition to legislation which has been introduced which would outlaw the use of leg-hold and steel-jaw traps.

I noted your particular mention of H.R. 8784 on this subject. This bill is simply pending before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and no action has been scheduled on this bill. You may be interested in knowing that there is a similar bill which has been introduced into the Senate, S. 2084, however, this is merely pending before the Senate Commerce Committee with no action scheduled on it.

I appreciated knowing of your opposition to this legislation, particularly because of your expertise in the trapping area. Please be assured that I will certainly keep your views in mind in the event that either of these bills are brought up on the Senate Floor.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write me as you did. Please let me know whenever I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
United States Senate

BD:cm



June 24, 1972

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my concern over House Bill 8784. For over fifteen years I have trapped almost every winter, and enjoy the sport along with several million other sportsman in this country. If H.B. 8784 is passed it would ban the interstate or foreign trade of all furs and skins taken by steel-jaw traps, and forbid the manufacture, and sale and use of leg-hold or steel-jaw traps in the U.S. and abroad.

The affects of this bill would kill an American heritage that outdoorsman have enjoyed for 300 years. My father taught me the skills of trapping many years ago. I have two sons that are almost old enough to start enjoying the sport.

The anti-trap movement people believe that steel traps inflict suffering on small animals. Actually trapping harvests the surplus of animals that would otherwise fall victim to starvation and diseases from over population. Wild animals can not be stock-piled like stored wheat or bales of cotton.

Trappers are taking animals that are more abundant now than they were 100 years ago. We are not killing off animals that are near extinction.

Each state has game laws that control the taking of furbearers. The limits and seasons are set by game biologists that are employed by the states. They are doing a good job. Let's have them continue.

Sincerely,

Topeka, Kansas 66611

REC'D JUN 26 1972