

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

04/13/2026

HB26-1342 Negligently Luring Bears

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Marie Buquicchio  For  Hands 4 Paws High School Club	Please support this bill. It is about time that humans are held accountable for the negligent acts that attract bears and ultimately cause the problems that lead to their death or relocation.
Mark Stubblebien  For  themselves	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of HB26-1342, Negligently Luring Bears, because Colorado’s wildlife governance must increasingly address the human behaviors that produce preventable conflict between people and large mammals. As bear populations continue to overlap with expanding residential development, unsecured trash, food waste, and other attractants create conditions in which bears are drawn into human spaces and ultimately placed at risk. This bill represents an important shift from reactive wildlife management toward preventative governance rooted in human accountability.</p> <p>What makes this legislation particularly significant is its recognition that environmental governance extends beyond the management of wildlife populations alone. Effective coexistence requires governing the social behaviors, infrastructural norms, and household practices that structure human-wildlife interactions. By establishing consequences for negligent behavior that lures bears, the state is not merely punishing individual actions; it is helping to shape new expectations around responsible waste management, food storage, and neighborhood stewardship in bear-prone regions.</p> <p>I support the bill because it reflects a more realistic standard of accountability. Requiring proof of intentional luring often fails to capture the ordinary negligence through which most wildlife conflicts emerge. In practice, repeated failure to secure garbage or outdoor food sources can have the same ecological consequences as intentional feeding. A negligence standard better aligns the law with the actual pathways through which bears become habituated to human environments.</p>

	<p>This legislation also advances broader environmental governance goals related to biodiversity conservation, public safety, and land use adaptation in a rapidly changing climate. As drought, wildfire displacement, and suburban expansion continue to alter bear movement patterns, Colorado must adopt governance frameworks that respond to both ecological change and human behavior. HB26-1342 does this by creating a legal mechanism that encourages preventative stewardship at the household and community level.</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly support HB26-1342 and encourage the committee to advance the bill.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alec Waz</p>
<p>Wendy Skizas For themselves</p>	<p>In support. Stronger laws are needed. Only higher fines and more serious legal consequences will get people to take notice of the harm we inflicted on wildlife around us.</p> <p>Bears should not continue to take the blame for sloppy human behavior. Fewer attractants = fewer conflict calls = fewer unnecessary wildlife deaths tied to our own trash. It's their home too, have we forgotten how to be respectful in the home of others?</p> <p>Thank you!! Support HB26-1342</p>