

PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G C O E X I S T E N C E



ACTION ALERT

Congresswoman Nita Lowey Reintroduces H.R. 2657- Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act of 2011

Please Urge Your Representative to Cosponsor H.R. 2657

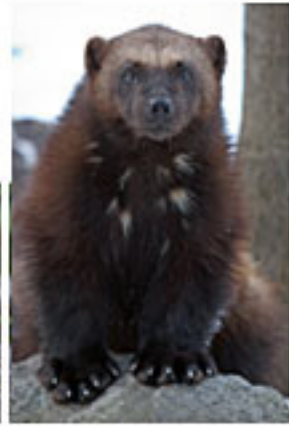
Every year thousands of animals are trapped on National Wildlife Refuges Wildlife including coyotes, bobcats, otters, fox, wolves, and beavers—often for “recreation” and profit (fur).

Wildlife champion Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) has reintroduced legislation to end the use of body-gripping traps used to trap and kill wildlife within National Wildlife Refuges. [H.R. 2657, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act](#), helps to restore the original intent of the National Wildlife Refuge System – to provide a safe-haven for wildlife – by banning the use of cruel body-gripping traps within the refuge system.

[More than half of our nation’s National Wildlife Refuges](#) allow the use of body-gripping traps including steel jaw leg-hold traps, Conibear traps, and snares. Animals may suffer for hours or days — struggling to free themselves from the long-drawn-out pain inflicted by the traps.

Because they are inherently non-selective, body-gripping traps frequently capture and kill the very species National Wildlife Refuges are supposed to protect including Bald eagles, Canada Lynx and Gray Wolves.

H.R. 2657, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, will ban these wildlife landmines helping to ensure that our National Wildlife Refuge System remains a true sanctuary for wild animals.



What You Can Do:

1. Write to your U.S. Representative and urge him/her to support and co-sponsor) [H.R. 2657-- the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act.](#)

Address letters to:
The Honorable [Full Name]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To find your Representative and submit comments directly, you are welcome to use [this form](#) set up by our friends at the Animal Welfare Institute.

POINTS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER (personalized letters have a greater impact when contacting members of Congress; use points above as well as below):

- You support H.R. 2657, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, and urge your Representative to support and co-sponsor this important federal bill to protect our nation's wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- More than half of our nation's National Wildlife Refuges allow the use of body-gripping traps including steel jaw leg-hold traps, Conibear traps, and snares. Animals may suffer for hours or days — struggling to free themselves from the long-drawn-out pain inflicted by the traps.
- Animals targeted on National Wildlife Refuges by trappers include coyotes, bobcats, otters, foxes, and other wildlife. Many of these animals are killed for “recreation” and profit (fur). Because body-gripping traps and snares do

not discriminate, they jeopardize the very species refuges are supposed to protect.

- A national Decision Research public opinion poll showed that 79% of Americans believe trapping on National Wildlife Refuges should be prohibited, while 88% believe wildlife and habitat preservation should be the highest priority of the refuge system. Trappers, who comprise less than one tenth of 1% of the population, already have access to millions of acres of public and private lands outside the refuge system for their activities.
- Studies show that body-gripping traps, including steel jaw leg-hold traps, Conibear traps, and snares, can cause significant injuries including fractures, dislocation, laceration, hemorrhage, and even amputations. Body-gripping traps have already been restricted in several states and leghold traps are banned in at least 80 countries. Conibear traps are designed to crush the animal's spinal column for a quick kill. However, the trap often misses and clamps down on the chest or pelvis, crushing bones and causing the animal excruciating pain and a prolonged death. Snares are among the oldest form of trap, a simple noose made of thin wire, which tightens around an animal's neck or body as they struggle to get away.
- H.R. 2657, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, will ensure that our National Wildlife Refuge System is maintained as a sanctuary and safe haven for wild animals as Congress originally intended.

For more information about trapping on the National Wildlife Refuge System:

- [Trapping on National Wildlife Refuges in Your State](#) - for detailed information about:
 - which refuges allow trapping
 - what devices are allowed
 - what species are targeted and for what purposes
 - what non-target species are trapped
- [History of trapping on our National Wildlife Refuge System](#)

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WILDLIFE!