



ROB STAFSHOLT

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DATE: January 30, 2020
RE: **Testimony on Assembly Bill 784**
TO: Members of the Assembly Committee Sporting Heritage
FROM: Representative Rob Stafsholt

Good morning and thank you for taking the time to hear this important bill on modifying administrative rules relating to the use of wood to contain bear bait in stumps.

Under current law it is illegal for any person to place, use or hunt over bait placed for bears that is not enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or a stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances. The purpose for the requirement to cover the bait is to prevent whitetail deer from accessing the material inside.

However, the stumps that are being used often have no bottoms. Without a properly secured bottom, animals such as wolves, coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, fishers and other small animals are able to dig under and/or tip the stump and access the material contained inside from underneath. This can unintentionally create an illegal bait site.

This bill would allow a bottom made of wood or similar processed materials to be properly attached to the stump. Making this change would allow hunters to create a safer legal bait site and help decrease the likelihood of the site becoming a congregation site for wolves, which will also make it safer for the use of hunting dogs in that area.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I encourage you all to join me in supporting this piece of legislation.