



April 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR S.05058 – LEAD AMMUNITION BAN

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use of lead ammunition when hunting on a state-owned land and land contributing surface water to the New York City water supply.

The dangers of lead poisoning are well-documented. According to the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lead/health.html#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20high%20levels%20of,also%20expose%20their%20unborn%20child> ingesting lead is particularly hazardous for young children, increasing the risk for brain and nervous system damage, and can lead to many learning and behavioral problems including tendencies towards violence. In adults, lead poison can harm spinal cord, kidney, and other vital organs.

Further, the National Park Service reported here <https://www.nps.gov/pinn/learn/nature/leadinfo.htm> that lead endangers wildlife by ingestion of lead-contaminated prey or picking up lead fragments from ammunition that enters the environment. Lead bullets are a danger to eagles, owls, hawks, and other birds who consume the gut-piles left behind by hunters. Small mammals and terrestrial birds that forage for seeds are in danger of ingesting spent lead shot, as are birds that ingest small stones for grit.

In *Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment—A Consensus Statement of Scientists 2013*, “Lead-based ammunition is likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead knowingly discharged into the environment into the United States. In contrast, other significant sources of lead in the environment, such as leaded gasoline, lead-based paint, and lead-based solder, are recognized as harmful and have been significantly reduced or eliminated over the past 50 years.”

In 1991, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued its first lead-ammunition ban for waterfowl hunting nationwide. In February 2022 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation prohibited target shooting at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management area, in part to reduce lead contamination in the environment. Movement is underway to limit or ban all lead ammunition in the U.S. and Canada as has recently occurred in Europe.

The Internet is rife with accounts from New York wildlife rehabilitators who show-and-tell heartbreaking photos and stories of their raptor patients dying of lead-poisoning.

Now that A.5728 has passed in the Assembly, for the sake of wildlife, NYC drinking water, and the environment, it's imperative to put S.5058 on the agenda of the EnCon Committee so that it can move closer to becoming law.

The League of Humane Voters/NY strongly supports S. 05058.

Sincerely,

Maureen Schiener, Submitted for the LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS@/NY, www.lohvny.org

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.