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Sent: 16 February 2010 10:34

To: +Comm. Environment Public Email

Subject: Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

As this is only at a draft stage I would like to ask members concerned to consider the plight of the badger v bTB:vaccination [less costly] as opposed to any cull strategy which has proven itself more times than enough at huge expense to be ineffective.

Also I would ask that the iconic Irish Hare be given full protection [Schedule 5]-recent surveys carried out by independent bodies show that this unique to Ireland animal is in decline and very vulnerable.

That the raven, *Corvus corax*, continue to receive full protection along with all raptors: as with the eagle the raven reuses its nest every year if not disturbed or persecuted.

Finally regarding snares-many feel that these should be abolished altogether as in country areas they are set indiscriminately and often deployed to catch badgers whose market value for fighting purposes is considerable. The fox is often used as an excuse to set snares and will naturally use badger trails or access points.

Thank you for any consideration and I wish the new assembly every success.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Close