

**Citizen Statement from Christine Weber, Greenwood Village**  
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Mesa County's Sen. Scott's Grand Slam Wildlife Hunting Raffle bill, SB18-137 is untimely, unwise, and a provocative ask of the Colorado state government. Rage over needless violence, especially that featuring guns, is at an all-time social high. This bill does not protect the vulnerable, does not curb wildlife overpopulation, and does not cull diseased animals.

SB18-137 is only "sport"—if one can honestly call it that. By definition, sport is described as 1) fair competition between matched adversaries; 2) activity of pleasure; 3) entertainment; and 4) success through winning. Let's examine how SB18-137 will fit such descriptions:

- 1) There is hardly "fair" competition between a hunter and an animal. Powerful guns and high-powered scopes need minimal skill to kill or injure an unwary animal who has heretofore survived by its natural wits in a hostile environment.
- 2) Cultural public outcry has become loud and clear regarding those who take pleasure from taking life—regardless of the victim's species.
- 3) Finding entertainment in snuffing out the life of the innocent and unaware is socially, morally, and spiritually repugnant.
- 4) Experiencing success through winning is understandable, but if that winning consists only of overpowering and taking life from a vulnerable prey that has absolutely no way to compete or win its own right to life, success is not the appropriate word. If winning was accomplished over any other vulnerable prey such as a wife, child, elder, or domestic pet, the "winner" would be socially ostracized and punished for inhumaneness.

I urge the State of Colorado to be sensitive to the current psycho-social mood of our culture. Why tempt tourism boycotts with an unneeded, unnecessary, and provocative bill? Why ask for environmentalist, conservationist, and other activism challenges? Surely this bill will cost far more (on many levels) than its supporters tout that it will bring into state bank accounts.

Let us help our state shine in human society as a beacon of forward-looking legislation that truly reflects what the majority of citizens are concerned about. Let us not tarnish our state's image as a destination of technological development, gleaming inclusion, and sought-after tourism for wholesome, safe, and family-oriented activities. Let us nourish and appreciate the natural resources our state has been blessed with. Let us turn from violence, weapons, and blood-thirsty greed for innocent deaths and immorally obtained money--regardless of how they are rationalized and defended.