

# Animal Law Coalition

*Laura Allen, Esq.*, Executive Director

[www.animallawcoalition.com](http://www.animallawcoalition.com)

May 6, 2011

Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal  
741 LOB Albany, NY 12248

Senator Mark Grisanti  
902 LOB Albany, NY 12247

RE: Support for AB 6291/SB 3858

Dear Assembly Member Rosenthal and Sen. Grisanti:

Thank you for introducing Assembly Bill 6291/Senate Bill 3858 to protect black bears by prohibiting the commercial trade in bear gallbladders and bile in New York state. I am the executive director of Animal Law Coalition which has an office in Ithaca, New York and members throughout the state. As New Yorkers, we are fully in support of this bill and hope the legislature moves quickly to pass it.

The trade in bear gallbladders and bile puts all bears at risk of poaching. Because the trade is legal in New York, it makes enforcement difficult, if not impossible, in states where the trade is illegal. A poacher caught in New Jersey and Pennsylvania avoids prosecution by pretending they obtained the gallbladder or bile from New York.

Also, New York has been linked to a network of illegal bear gallbladder trafficking. Our state is a laundering center for illegally obtained bear gallbladders and bile.

Without AB 6291/SB 3858, New York's bear population will remain at serious risk from these poachers. New York's role in the trade of bear gallbladders and bile contributes to the threat to endangered bear populations worldwide.

Animal Law Coalition urges all New York legislators to join you and pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*Laura Allen*

Laura Allen, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Animal Law Coalition