

March 5, 2009

Representative James Spallone
Environment Committee
Room 3200
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Spallone,

This letter is a full recommendation and endorsement of support for the passage of HB No. 6553 AAC SUNDAY HUNTING.

The law, as it currently is written, is arbitrary, archaic and not responsive to the wildlife management goals of the State of Connecticut. There is no reason why hunting with a bow and arrow should not be allowed on private property on Sunday.

There are two reasons for hunting laws. Biology and safety.

Biologically the deer population in Connecticut and especially Fairfield County is at an unacceptable level. Living in Fairfield County I don't believe I know anyone who has not struck a deer with their automobile or knows someone who has. Deer are destroying the ecosystem and need to be properly managed in Connecticut. Allowing Sunday hunting will allow for more deer to be harvested and a return to a more natural ecosystem.

There are absolutely no safety issues involved in allowing Sunday hunting, with a bow and arrow, on private land. Injury while archery hunting is rare to nonexistent. The injuries which do occur are almost always self inflicted. Hunting is allowed six other days of the week so to imply that it is "more dangerous" on the seventh is absolute nonsense. Hunting will be taking place on private property with the landowner's permission. This bill will not affect public land where others may wish to walk dogs, hike or horseback ride. One hunting stand which I have in Fairfield I also use to target shoot with a bow and arrow from on Sundays. While target shooting on a Sunday I may shoot several hundred arrows. When hunting from the same stand the other six days of the week I may shoot one or none. Prohibiting Sunday hunting with a bow and arrow makes absolutely no sense.

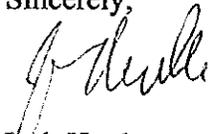
Living in Westport, the areas that I hunt with a bow and arrow in are in Fairfield and Wilton. All of the areas which I hunt I was actually requested by the homeowner to do so. The homeowners contacted me because the deer were destroying their property.

When speaking with them I explained that I would be able to hunt any day but Sunday. The response that I always get is "Why?" I then explain that it is illegal to hunt on Sunday in Connecticut. The next response that I always get is, "Its my private property, I want you here as often as possible, its not a safety issue, and the deer don't know what day of the week it is anyway, why would there be a law prohibiting you from hunting here on a Sunday when its OK the other six days of the week?" My response is always the same, "I don't know."

The law as it is written now has no biological reason, no safety reason and is an infringement on the rights of property owners.

The law should be changed to allow Sunday hunting with a bow and arrow.

Sincerely,



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