

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

IN SUPPORT of S.B. No. 827 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FALCONRY

by Robert T. Crook, Director.

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The original Falconry bill was passed in 1998 as P.A. 98-153 and was codified as Sec. 26-67e of the General Statutes. CT was the last state of 49 to pass Falconry. Complex regulations were developed and passed in 2004.

Section 1 of the bill allows the capture, by use of various falconry devices, an immature red-tailed hawk for the purpose of engaging in falconry. We are informed that 48 other states allow this capture practice some with different and/or multiple species. Red-tailed hawks are prolific within CT and under Sec. 26-306 No regulations have been promulgated establishing this species as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Additionally with the few practicing Falconers (10-12) who later release the birds there is no impact.

Section 2 allows falconers to engage in Sunday hunting. Exercising a raptor daily is critical to maintaining proper conditioning of the bird. Since law enforcement considers falconry on Sunday a violation, this proposal is essential for the health of the bird.

Other states have Falconry Sunday Hunting. The latest is North Carolina which allows Bow hunting and falconry on private lands and falconry on public lands on Sundays which started with the fall 2010 hunting seasons. Only falconry is a legal method of take on public lands on Sundays.

A provision in the bill should state that migratory waterfowl shall not be taken by falconry. The reasoning for this is that CT gets an extended season on waterfowl by US Fish and Wildlife Service since we don't have waterfowl hunting on Sunday.

This bill provides Falconers with opportunities similar to virtually all other states and promotes the conditioning and health of the birds.

We urge **SUPPORT**.