March 7, 2012

Environment Committee Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Office Building 300 Capitol Ave Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. No. 83 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

I urge you to SUPPORT S.B. No. 83.

Connecticut's Sunday hunting ban is simply an antiquated blue law that needs to be repealed.

Currently, Connecticut is one of only six states in the country that strictly bans hunting on Sunday. This prohibition threatens the very future of our hunting heritage by discouraging hunter recruitment and retention. In addition, this antiquated ban harms Connecticut's economy.

Due to increasingly demanding work, family and extracurricular schedules, older and younger hunters alike often have only Sundays available to hunt. The ban keeps them from remaining or becoming hooked on hunting. There is a reason that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a radical group whose ultimate goal is to end all hunting in America, is one of the most active advocates of maintaining the ban. Our opponents know that the future of hunting is at stake and you should too.

At a time when the economy is struggling and too many people are out of work, legislators must not continue to refuse the enormous economic benefits associated with allowing hunting on Sundays. Comprehensive research from the National Shooting Sports Foundation shows that allowing hunting on Sundays would generate an additional annual economic impact estimated at $38 million and create 500 jobs.

The opposition

Humane society claims that recreational hunting is already allowed six days per week. Opening Sunday to hunting takes away the one day a week when nature lovers may enter the woods to hike, watch wildlife, camp, photograph, or horseback ride.

This is inaccurate because this bill covers only private property. Anyone hiking, watching wildlife, camping, photographing, or horseback riding in private property without the owner's consent is trespassing. Trespassing is illegal. Also, non hunters have 365 days a year when all those activities are allowed in public property.

According to humane society, if Sunday hunting is opened to bow-hunting on private land, arrows know no property boundaries and pose public safety hazards to anyone who is in the vicinity.

This is inaccurate due to the fact that most bow hunting takes place from a tree stand and all shots are taken on a downward angle never going more that 30-35 yards in a straight line. The risk of injuring someone is non-existing. If any bystander was within range of the arrow, the deer would flee and there would not be a shot taken.

According to the humane society, only 1% -- of people hunt in Connecticut.

It is not fair that 1% of the people pay 100% of license fees and can only enjoy the sport on 16 weekend days a year while of the other 99% don't pay any fees and get to enjoy it 365 days a year.

Thanks danmathiau@comcast.net