

DON A. MILIAREISIS
320 Vine Road
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 561-3540
don_miliareisis@yahoo.com

March 7, 2012

The Environmental Committee
Legislative Office Building
General Assembly
State of Connecticut

Re: Raised Bill # 83

via email: Jason.Bowsza@cga.ct.gov.

Honorable Members,

I would have preferred to provide this testimony in person, but a disability precludes me from traveling to Hartford. Please accept this brief written testimony in support of this bill.

I am the father of five children, all of which love the outdoors. As our older children reached the age, we obtained instruction in firearms hunting safety and archery hunting safety. In addition we have taken advantage of the Department of Environmental Protection, now the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, classes offered to further our understanding and appreciation of the wildlife and natural resources of our state.

However, Connecticut prohibits hunting on Sunday and is one of only a six states with such a severe restriction. This limits our ability to spend time together in this activity due to work and school schedules. Although I am a religious man, and active in my church, I do not believe that the state should prevent me from utilizing my property on Sunday's in order to attend a service. In addition there aren't any arguments that could justify prohibition on private property. If the landowner provides permission why should the state prohibit just because it is a Sunday?

When, in a letter to the Danbury CT Baptists, Thomas Jefferson wrote the phrase "wall of separation between the church and the state" he was articulating that the founders clearly intended that the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution prevent the government from involving itself in religious activities. This current blue law clearly violates that intent and should be removed.

Notwithstanding the additional state revenue this would generate, allowing landowners to use their properties to hunt with bow and arrow is safe, does not interfere with any other landowners, residents or visitors and will allow families like my own the time to spend together pursuing an activity we are very devoted to.

For your kind consideration,

Don A. Miliareisis

Don A. Miliareisis