

March 7, 2012

Environmental Committee

SB 83 – An Act Concerning Sunday Bow Hunting under Certain Circumstances

Dear Committee Members,

I have been a resident of the town of Redding for the past ten years. I have been a safe and effective bow hunter since 1982 and I am the Deer Warden for the Town of Redding. We manage a program to reduce the deer herd on Town owned lands and our goal is to help restore the forest understory to provide better habitat for birds and small mammals.

Working Monday through Friday, family obligations, and bad weather often interfere with the only day I have to hunt, which is Saturday. Sunday hunting would allow myself and other hunters to double our opportunities to hunt. This would increase the deer harvest, significantly, and give a greater opportunity for forest understory re-growth.

You will hear from anti-hunters that this is unsafe, unethical, etc. This is totally false. I am a safe hunter every day I hunt. I practice safety first. Hikers and hunters can coexist on the same property. We prove it in our town. This bill is proposed for hunting on private land, which the hunter needs written permission and hunting cannot occur within 40 yards of a marked trail. So would we then protect a hiker that is a trespasser on private land vs. a hunter that has the landowners' permission to be there?

Most states currently allow Sunday Hunting. Our state is one of a few that do not. The majority of the Legislation, the DEEP and the Governor are in favor of this bill. Why don't we take it to a vote and get Sunday Hunting passed this year.

Thank you,

Don Hain

Deer Warden Town of Redding