

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

I urge you to SUPPORT S.B. No. 83. (AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES).

Connecticut's Sunday hunting ban is simply an antiquated law that needs to be repealed.

Currently, Connecticut is one of only six states in the country that still bans hunting on Sundays. This prohibition threatens the very future of our hunting heritage by discouraging hunter recruitment and retention. Due to increases demands from work, family and extracurricular schedules, older and younger hunters alike find it difficult to find time only to hunt on Saturdays.

At a time when the economy is struggling and too many people are out of work, legislators cannot ignore 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 up to 500 jobs.

As this bill only affects PRIVATE property, anyone hiking, watching wildlife, camping, photographing, or horseback riding in private property without the owner's consent is trespassing. Trespassing is illegal.

Although the Humane Society would have you think that safety is a big concern, their thinking is irrational. I am at a loss to understand how they believe that me hunting on my own land is somehow safe enough on Saturday, and yet so unsafe on Sunday. Also, most bow hunting takes place from a tree stand and all shots are taken on a downward angle never going more than 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.

Lastly, Connecticut biologist agree that there is an over population of deer which leads to disease and property damage. Increasing hunting opportunities for the hunters of Connecticut is one of the few remedies to this condition.

While I appreciate the tradition of keeping the Sabbath day (Sunday) holy, I cannot fathom a justification for a one day restriction of any legal recreation activity enjoyed on PRIVATE property. The argument that Sunday hunting interferes with other people's enjoyment of the outdoors is ridiculous. This bill only affects PRIVATE property. Those who are worried for their safety in the woods on Sunday should avoid trespassing on private property during the legal hunting season.

Thank you for listening,

Gregg Karal

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