

Good Morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

My name is Peter Aldrich and I am the president of Hunt To Feed.

Hunt To Feed is a statewide organization which allows any state hunter to donate their harvest, free of charge to feed the hungry.

According to the USDA, 17 million American households or 14.6% of our national population are food insecure and have difficulty putting food on their tables. According to Nancy Carrington, President and CEO of The Connecticut Food Bank in her testimony to the Appropriations Committee, 52% of Connecticut residents who are food insecure do not qualify for federal food assistance. And according to the CT Food Bank, more than 400,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger today. Nearly 10% of our residents live in poverty and the CT Food Bank distributes 15 million pounds of food annually.

Did you know that ONE DEER could feed 200 hungry people? HTF has grown a staggering 260% since our inception in 2006. That's an annual average growth of 45%.

In 2010 Hunt To Feed donated a record 11,000 meals to the hungry in Connecticut.

One of the biggest challenges to food banks and pantries is providing needed protein. The Hunt To Feed program

through Connecticut state hunters have been able to fill part of this need for healthy protein to our hungry Connecticut residents.

*Maner Tyson of Waterbury Baptist Ministries says:*

*“The venison we receive from the Hunt to Feed Program helps meet that need. The venison is always popular and provides good quality healthy meat for our families.”*

*Lt. Angie Galentine of Torrington Salvation Army had this to say:*

*“The great thing is we are able to provide meat to so many people at an unbelievably low cost because of this program. I don't think that we could have provided meat to our food pantry clients this year without the Hunt to Feed program.”*

In our uncertain financial times, long work days and working multiple jobs restricts our hunters to Saturday hunts. Lifting the restriction on Sunday hunts would provide an extra opportunity to increase deer harvest and, in turn, help needy Connecticut residents through the Hunt to Feed program.

So I urge you today, to please support S.B. No. 83 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. Thank you.