

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 83, AAC Authorizing Bow and Arrow  
Hunting on Sunday,  
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SB 83 will have dangerous consequences for Connecticut residents.  
Bowhunting is unsafe and barbaric because:

1. There is no minimum acreage requirement. There is no required setback from homes and property lines.
2. Notification of neighbors is NOT required.
3. It is done from tree stands under which deer have been lured with food.
4. Deer are not always killed instantly - many die in agony by "bleeding out" over many hours. There is a 50% wounding rate, allowing animals to run with arrows in them.

Being in the 99% majority of Connecticut residents who do not hunt, I oppose SB 83 since it will impinge upon my rights to enjoy at least one day – Sunday – without fear of endangerment by hunters. Arrows and bullets know no boundaries and pose public safety hazards to anyone who is in a large radius of the hunter. Further, domestic animals, such as dogs and horses, are sometimes mistaken for game animals.

Wildlife watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, and horseback riders outnumber hunters in Connecticut by 29 to 1 and outspend them by seven to one, contributing more than \$500 million dollars to the state's economy annually, (Source: The United States Fish and Wildlife Service). The overwhelming majority of people do not participate in hunting and there is no compelling reason to disrupt this longstanding No Sunday Hunting tradition to appease a tiny minority.

SB 83 is another ruse conceived by the DEEP in a feeble attempt to increase the number of hunting licenses sold per year to counter the ever diminishing numbers of hunters in Connecticut - approximately 34,000 and steadily decreasing. Attempts to save the jobs of Wildlife Division personnel who are not needed to service only 34,000 hunters is another example of wasteful spending in our state.