

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 83 AAC Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Sunday

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As an outdoor enthusiast and a DEEP Wildlife Rehabilitator, I cherish my time outdoors – the beauty and serenity of a hike in the woods cannot be surpassed. Unfortunately, during hunting season, my opportunity to safely enjoy nature is greatly diminished. We, the 99% of non-hunters in Connecticut, must contend with bullets and arrows six days a week. Now, the 1 % hunting population, wants to deprive us of our one and only day of tranquility. It is unacceptable and undemocratic to further endanger the public simply to appease a *tiny* minority.

It is scientifically inaccurate to suggest that expanding hunting will reduce the threat of Lyme disease or contain the growing deer population (Ostfeld, 2011 & Jordan, *et al*, 2007). Even the CDC does NOT recommend hunting to control Lyme disease because the removal of one large host will force ticks to move on to other large hosts, *i.e.*, humans and their pets. As far as the deer population is concerned, the math is simple: the more you kill, the more will be born – nature abhors a vacuum and deer numbers routinely rebound after hunting season.

In addition, bow hunting is particularly inhumane, with extremely high “crippling” rates regardless of the type of archery equipment used (Gregory 2005, Nixon, *et al* 2001, etc.). Imagine the agony endured by an animal that slowly bleeds to death or eventually succumbs to an infection.

In closing, hunters in Connecticut have four and a half months each year to hunt deer, six days a week. That is more than sufficient! The legislature needs to protect the rights of the majority – the non-hunters. We hikers, dog walkers, and horseback riders outspend hunters 7 to 1, thereby contributing far more to the state’s economy (USF&WS).

Thank you.