NORTHWEST CT SPORTSMAN'S COUNCIL
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March 7th, 2012

## To: Environment Committee

Re: Public hearing on HB 5158- An act authorizing bow and arrow hunting under certain circumstances:

My name is Jason Marshall; I am president of the Northwest CT Sportsman's Council, which represents 32 sportsmen's organizations in northwest CT.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Environment Committee for hearing my testimony today.

My comments are centered more on land owner rights and the economic impact on this state, than discussing the effect of Sunday hunting on the deer population.

*Land owners rights should be taken under consideration with this bill. The land owners should be allowed to let hunters on their land, on the days that they see fit. It would also allow the Land owner, (if they wish) a day to set aside for themselves to hunt their own land without the pressure other hunters.

*We allow fishing on Sundays.... Why not bow hunting?

39 others states allow bow hunting including two of our boarder states, New York & Rhode Island.

Having both Saturday & Sunday to hunt would be a great attraction for many non-resident hunters and would be an economic boost to this state's small businesses of lodging, food, fuel and sporting goods retail businesses, who are hit especially hard by the lack luster economy in this state.

Not to mention the increase in sales of non-residence hunting licenses.

*There are many sportsmen & sportswomen who work 6 days a week. They don't get a chance to hunt very often due to the demands of work and family. If they want to hunt, they have to take a day off from work to do so. Sundays would be their only chance to hunt if they could. This would allow them to provide high protein venison to their families so to offset their escalating weekly food bills.

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*The economic impact to businesses and jobs, as well as an increase in sales taxes collected by the state would certainly be welcomed by the residents of this state. A study published by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, (see attached) relating to states that presently do not have Sunday hunting indicates that the total economic impact if Sunday hunting was allowed in this state, would mean an increase of approximately 496 (full of part-time) jobs with associated wages of $14,218,519, creating a revenue output of $38,245,866. I'm sure you will agree these are impressive numbers!

* DEEP recently released an extensive analysis conducted by UConn's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) showing that outdoor activities on state lands have an economic impact of more than $1 billion a year. The $1 billion represents the amount spent by state residents and visitors on a variety of outdoor activities including camping, boating, fishing and hunting.

* Most other "Blue Laws" in this state have been rescinded, due to the negative economic impact these laws had on the state economy. This situation is no different.

Due to the benefit to local business, towns and the state's economy, I urge you to support HB 5158, allowing Sunday bow hunting on private lands.

Respectfully Submitted

Jason Marshall
President,
Northwest CT Sportsman's Council