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Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems
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S.B. No. 83 & H.B. No. 5261
TESTIMONY OF DR. NAN ZYLA, PRESIDENT, HARP, Inc.
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2012

I OPPOSE S.B. No. 83, An Act Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Sunday Under Certain Circumstances. My objections to this bill are as follows:

1) The stated purpose of this bill is “to help control the state’s deer population.” There is no scientific underpinning of this bill that would reveal deer population numbers or specific locations. What are the numbers that would indicate a determination that deer are “overpopulated” since the state has no scientific method for counting deer? Where precisely does this situation exist? How would extension of a generalized statewide hunting program coincide with a nonspecific effort to control a population?

2) Section 1 of the bill does not specify bow and arrow hunting of deer exclusively; would all other species of animals be at risk for being hunted with bows and arrows on Sunday? If so, how would this address the bill’s stated purpose of helping control “the state’s deer population”?

3) The majority (97- 98%) of Connecticut’s population does not hunt, and all citizens in the state “own” its resources, including wildlife. Hunting is currently allowed six days a week. Families and individuals who choose to enjoy nature and the outdoors by walking, hiking, photographing wildlife and scenery, and otherwise passively recreating are unable to do this on only one day a week, Sunday, without fear of being accidentally shot by a hunter.

4) Hunting with bows and arrows is considered the most inhumane and least effective of all forms of hunting. Numerous studies conducted by state wildlife agencies, such as Texas and Maryland, have concluded that fifty percent of deer struck by arrows are wounded and not retrieved by hunters. Wounded deer fleeing from hunters can unpredictably impact locations far from the original hunting site, as well as create dangerous traffic hazards.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, “Arrows wound or kill by causing hemorrhaging, thus creating the equivalent of a stab wound. Death rarely, if ever, comes quickly, being measured not in minutes, but hours or days” due to the loss of blood and/or infect. I also **OPPOSE** H.B. No.5261 for similar reasons as those stated above. This would be inhumane and inflict wounds and prolonged suffering on the deer.