

March 8, 2012

Environment Committee Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Office Building 300
Capitol Ave Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. No. 83 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY
UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Distinguished Members of the Environmental
Committee:

I urge you to SUPPORT S.B. No. 83.

Connecticut's Sunday hunting ban is simply an antiquated blue law that needs to be
repealed.

Currently, Connecticut is one of only six states in the country that strictly bans hunting
on Sunday. This prohibition threatens the very future of our hunting heritage by
discouraging hunter recruitment and retention. In addition, this antiquated ban harms
Connecticut's economy.

Due to increasingly demanding work, family and extracurricular schedules, older and
younger hunters alike often have only Sundays available to hunt. The ban keeps them
from remaining or becoming hooked on hunting. There is a reason that the Humane
Society of the United States (HSUS), a radical group whose ultimate goal is to end all
hunting in America, is one of the most active advocates of maintaining the ban. Our
opponents know that the future of hunting is at stake and you should too.

At a time when the economy is struggling and too many people are out of work,
legislators must not continue to refuse the enormous economic benefits associated with
allowing hunting on Sundays. Comprehensive research from the National Shooting
Sports Foundation shows that allowing hunting on Sundays would generate an
additional annual economic impact estimated at \$38 million and create 500 jobs.

The opposition

Humane society claims that recreational hunting is already allowed six days per week.
Opening Sunday to hunting takes away the one day a week when nature lovers may
enter the woods to hike, watch wildlife, camp, photograph, or horseback ride.

This is inaccurate because this bill covers only private property. Anyone hiking,
watching wildlife, camping, photographing, or horseback riding in private property
without the owner's consent is trespassing. Trespassing is illegal. Also, non hunters
have 365 days a year when all those activities are allowed in public property.

According to humane society, if Sunday hunting is opened to bow-hunting on private land, arrows know no property boundaries and pose public safety hazards to anyone who is in the vicinity.

This is inaccurate due to the fact that most bow hunting takes place from a tree stand and all shots are taken on a downward angle never going more than 30-35 yards in a straight line. The risk of injuring someone is non-existing. If any bystander was within range of the arrow, the deer would flee and there would not be a shot taken.

According to the humane society, only 1% -- of people hunt in Connecticut.

It is not fair that 1% of the people pay 100% of license fees and can only enjoy the sport on 16 weekend days a year while the other 99% don't pay any fees and get to enjoy it 365 days a year.

Sincerely,

Momchil Minchev
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