

**Testimony of Neil Hornish
In OPPOSITION of SB83
An Act Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Sunday
March 7, 2012**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee (Sen. Meyer, Rep. Roy, Sen. Maynard, Sen. Roraback, Rep. Urban, Rep. Hennessy, Rep. P. Miller, Rep. Chapin, Rep. Backer, Rep. Camillo, Rep. Davis, Rep. Fox, Rep. Greene, Rep. Hurlburt, Rep. Hwang, Rep. Luxenberg, Rep. Megna, Rep. L. Miller, Rep. Miner, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Mushinsky, Rep. Piscopo, Rep. Rigby, Rep. Rose, Rep. Ryan, Rep. Shaban, Rep. Willis, Rep. C. Wright, and Rep. E. Wright),

I would like to take this opportunity to express my **Opposition** to **SB83**, An Act Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Sunday Under Certain Circumstances.

It has been stated by lobbyists for hunting interests that the goal of hunting programs is to maintain a consistent level of an animal population, to avoid cyclical population increases and declines that normally occur in nature.

If this mission is to be accepted, then the DEEP's deer hunting program has been an abject failure. The deer population in the state has continued to rise since deer hunting began in 1975 from a few thousand to well over 100,000 today. The hunting program is a major factor in the increase in the deer population. The true objective of the program has been to pander to a small group of hunters, ensuring a large number of animals to kill.

With a wounding rate of approximately 50%, hunting with a bow and arrow is especially heinous.

Another issue of this bill that is of concern is the requirement for a hunter to be at least 40 yards away from any hiking trail. The arrows fired from the compound bows used today can be lethal at more than five times that distance.

There have already been hunting accidents this season. A family's dog was shot on a hiking trail in Granby, and a woman in Western Massachusetts was shot when a hunter, aiming at her dogs, missed the dogs and hit her. I would ask the members of the Environment Committee to oppose this bill in support of the vast majority of Connecticut residents who enjoy the outdoors for recreation purposes that do not include needless violence towards animals and the increased potential for accident and injury.

Thank You,



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