

Coalition of CT Sportsmen

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Environment Committee Public Hearing

March 21, 2013

Opposed: H.B. No. 6305 An Act Prohibiting Hunting In Proximity To Wildlife Preserves.

Support: H.B. No. 5412 An Act Concerning Deer Management Programs On Private Property.

Support: H.B. No. 6654 An Act Concerning Sportsmen Related Revisions To The General Statutes.

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. Thank you all for your time today.

Opposed: H.B. No. 6305 An Act Prohibiting Hunting In Proximity To Wildlife Preserves.

A wildlife refuge is a haven or sanctuary for animals; an area of land or of land and water set aside and maintained, usually by government or private organization, for the preservation and protection of one or more species of wildlife. By definition, wildlife is protected while inside the geographical boundary of the refuge. Government and private organizations do allow hunting inside these refuges to protect the flora and fauna. Please keep in mind that conservation funding in CT is largely paid for by sportsmen through license sales, as well as taxes on firearms and ammunition. This bill will expand the geographical boundaries to include public and private land, but where will it stop.

Support: H.B. No. 5412 An Act Concerning Deer Management Programs On Private Property.

It is time to erase the last blue law in CT and also restore private property rights. Allowing sportsmen to hunt on private land will not interfere with public land activities. This will increase the deer harvested in the state reducing the population to a more moderate level. This will also provide people like me who work 5-6 days a week to have a couple extra days to enjoy our sport.

Support: H.B. No. 6654 An Act Concerning Sportsmen Related Revisions To The General Statutes.

Reducing the fee to young adult sportsmen is a fantastic idea. When I was in that age group you could say that I wasn't fiscally responsible. I was lucky enough to have a father who was willing to purchase my licenses and deer tags. I believe this will increase the number of younger sportsmen in the state. This is important, not only for wildlife management, but also for

character building. Fishing, hunting and trapping keep young adults away from less desirable activities and gets them away from the video games.

Presently we don't know how many guides are in the state. Licenses will not only provide revenue but will give the DEEP a way forward to help regulate the industry. The bear lottery will also provide extra revenue and when the population in the state requires the harvesting of bear, DEEP will be ready. Thank you for your time.