

21-March-2013

Senator Meyer  
Rep. Gentile  
Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

**RE: OPPOSE HB 6654 (Bear Hunting)  
OPPOSE HB 5412 (Sunday Hunting)**

Dear Senator Meyer, Rep. Gentile, and Honorable Members of Environment Committee:

By means of introduction, my name is Richard Kragle. I am a resident of Glastonbury, CT and am an active voter in all elections.

Please accept this as my testimony (for public hearing held on 3/22/13) in **OPPOSITION to a provision within HB 6654**, AAC Sportsmen Related Revisions to the General Statutes. I oppose the provision that would open up a bear hunting season. I also write in **OPPOSITION to HB 5412**, AAC Deer Management Programs on Private Property—I am **opposed to Sunday hunting**.

From various perspectives the bear hunting provision in HB 6654 should not be legal:

- 1) I treasure our state's black bears and **do not want to see them hunted and orphaned** by trophy hunters. Instead, I ask that you maintain protections for Connecticut's bears.
- 2) Bear conflicts typically occur in residential areas, and **not** where hunting takes place.
- 3) Other more effective means exist to control bear conflicts, such as removing attractants (such as garbage).
- 4) There is **no scientific rationale or necessity** for instituting a hunt. **The exact bear population is unknown;** further, any bear population risk assessment would take several years to complete.

From various perspectives the Sunday Hunting provision in HB 5412 should not be legal:

- 1) The public does not want hunting on Sundays, and lifting the prohibition will **jeopardize public safety and diminish outdoor opportunities for non-consumptive users**. The number of non hunters far exceeds the number of hunters---only 1% of Connecticut residents hunt.
- 2) **Sunday hunting will endanger public safety**. Arrows and bullets know no boundaries and pose public safety hazards to anyone who is in a large radius of the hunter. Further, domestic animals, such as dogs and horses, are sometimes mistaken for game animals. Thus, expanding recreational opportunities for hunters diminishes opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, bird watchers, and many others.
- 3) **Hunting will not reduce Lyme disease risk**.
- 4) **Sunday hunting will not resolve deer-related problems**.

As a nature and animal enthusiast and on behalf of the vast voting population that enjoys the outdoors, I respectfully request your support in **opposing** the provisions in these bills.

Thank you for your consideration and support in these matters.

Sincerely,  
Richard Kragle  
1136A Main Street  
South Glastonbury, CT 06073