

Sunday Hunting Testimony

S.B. No. 915 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Conservation Advisory Council is in **support** of this bill.

I am speaking on behalf of the Conservation Advisory Council. The Council consists of 25 members, who represent approximately 35,000 sportsmen throughout the state. These members belong to groups such as United Bowhunters of CT, CT Audubon Society, Bristol Fish and Game, Rockville Fish and Game, CT Sportsman Alliance, Northwest CT Sportsmen, New London /Windham County League of Sportsmen Club, Fairfield County League of Sportsmen, CT Fish Advisory Council, CT Falconers Association, American Hunting Dog Club, CT Trappers Association, CT Woodcock Council, to name a few. As you can see, these groups have different interests at heart, but believe that conservation is important to the state's ecology.

This bill is supported by the DEEP as a deer management technique. The DEEP and its' biologists believe bow hunting on Sundays will help control the deer populations on private land. They have studied deer populations in our state and how deer can change the ecology of an area. Some of these areas are very important to our survival. Water supply regions around the state, many of which allow hunting, attract large numbers of deer and need hunting to keep the ecological damage in check. This bill will also benefit small businesses around the State from sales by sporting goods stores, restaurants, motels, and others, as we expect not only State bow hunters to be afield but also an increase in non-resident hunters.

This bill will impact only those who wish to be impacted. This bill will only allow bow hunting on private land with written permission given to the hunter. The landowner can still refuse hunting on Sunday. This bill does not affect State Land use or administer more tags for deer harvest. This bill only provides more opportunity, 16 Sundays to be exact, for hunters to be successful. This exact bill has been passed by this committee 2 years in a row. I ask that you pass this bill again, move it from this committee to the legislative floor, and request the President Pro Tem and Speaker to call the bill. Let the people of the State decide if this bill is right for the State.