

February 25, 2013, 2012
Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. No. 915 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Distinguished Members of the Environmental Committee:

We are writing in support of S.B. No. 915. Connecticut's Sunday hunting ban is simply an antiquated

blue law that needs to be repealed.

Employment or school requires most hunters to work or study from Monday to Friday and this leaves

only Saturday for hunting. This means hunters have only 16 days out of the year. Once you add

inclement weather, family obligations and other family or work activities, this really leaves no available

time for hunting. Allowing Sunday hunting will increase the opportunities we have to enjoy the outdoors

and sport we love an additional 16 days.

We are all outdoors men/women and we eat what we harvest. The majority of us use the venison

harvested to save in groceries and many of us share our bounty with family and friend in need. Lots of

hunters also contribute to Hunt to feed.

Hunt to Feed is an organization that donates venison to the less fortunately. According to the CT Food

Bank, more than 390,000 Connecticut residents are struggling today with hunger. Each deer donated

by hunters can yield 200 meals.

SAFETY:

There is no recorded incident in Connecticut's history of a by stander or a non-hunter to ever, EVER

being injured by a bow hunter.

FACTS:

Deer/Car collisions, Lyme disease occurrence, and property damage are all increasing.

Hunting is the

ONLY proven population management technique available for Deer.

Large populations of White-tailed deer have been identified as a primary threat to the health and

diversity of our forested landscapes.

In Southwest Connecticut, the density of deer ranges between 40 and 100 deer per square mile.

Densities in excess of 20 per mile can result in suppression of forest regeneration and reduction of

biological and structural diversity.

Lowering the number of deer per square mile reduces the risk of Lyme Disease.

Few hunters will take extended hunting trips to a state that won't let them hunt on Sunday.

Out-of-state

hunters pay higher license fees benefitting DEEP and spend even more money than in-state hunters

on gas, food, lodging and other incidentals that go along with a day's hunt.

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 of the other 99% don't pay any fees and get to enjoy it 365

days a year.

According to the humane society, bird watchers outspend hunters 7.4 to 1. Taking into

consideration that they outnumber hunters by 29 to 1 (their numbers not mine), hunters

actually outspend bird watchers 4 to 1. It only takes 7 hunters to spend the same amount of

money 29 bird watchers spend. More effort should be placed in expanding the number of

hunters.

Members of the Environmental Committee,

We are asking you to defend landowner rights by allowing landowners to determine who, where, when,

and what activities should occur on our properties.

It is ridiculous that an activity that is SAFE and LEGAL 6 days of the week is illegal one day.

Sincerely,

Joann Murray

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