

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

**I am opposed to SB 915**, an act authorizing bow and arrow hunting on Sunday and for the following reasons:

” For every deer killed and retrieved by a bow hunter, one is hit and wounded but not retrieved. “(Glenn A. Boydston, Horace Gore, “Archery Wounding Loss in Texas” Report from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department 1986).

Those statistics certainly give me pause. For every deer killed, another is wounded. The assumption is that bow and arrow hunting offers a swift and painless death 100% of the time, but that is incorrect.

This swift death only happens 50% of the time. “If a bullet or broadhead arrow damages a vital organ, hemorrhagic shock will send a deer to a swift and painless death.” (Quoted in *Deer and Hunting* , Oct 1991, 51)That’s a big if, and very bad odds for the humane treatment of animals.

I don’t hunt, nor do I wish to see the results of poor marksmanship. I don’t wish to imagine , or to see a suffering animal, while hiking in the woods or walking a country lane. The idea that **one out of two** deer hit, go un- retrieved, and suffer most likely from infection and starvation is unacceptable.

The great difference between bow hunting and what I grew up doing is this. When fishing with my dad, we either practiced catch and release, using non-barbed hooks, or we caught a few fish for dinner which we killed instantly, so that they would not suffer. I have a great deal of trouble with a sport in which **50% of the time**, an animal inhabiting “its” natural environment, **is left to suffer**. Do they suffer for hours, days, weeks? Who can be sure... I can’t condone that kind of cruelty in the name of sport. Leaving 50% to suffer, just waiting for death is wrong.

“Hunters often attempt to minimize the harm they inflict by suggesting that death by bullet or arrow is less traumatic than the deaths these targeted animals would otherwise experience. This ignores the fact that human hunters specifically target large, healthy animals, exactly the least likely to die from disease, starvation, or nonhuman predation.” (Donovan and Adams, Brian Luke “Justice, Caring...2007)

I doubt anyone on the committee would wish to see a wounded animal stumble into their view, or the view of their children, especially with an arrow sticking out of its flesh. If the answer to that question is no, than Sunday Bow and Arrow hunting must go. Six days to maim 50% of the animals hunted, is already too long in my book.

As part of the 99% that do not hunt in Connecticut, I strongly urge the Committee to vote nay to Sunday Bow and Arrow hunting.

Sincerely,

Lori Nicholson

133 Pawson Road

Branford Connecticut