

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: I am are writing in support of
S.B. No. 915.

I had signed up to testify in person today, but was unable to stay.

I heard Rep Urbans concern about children riding horses being at risk. That is plain silly. Bow hunters are the elite of the hunting community, bow hunting is incredibly challenging, as you need to get within 20-30 yards of the deer. Once in range we clearly identify the gender, size and age of the deer. Then wait for the right shot opportunity to make a clean humane shot. There is no way to mistake a horse with a child atop it with a deer that is desirable to harvest.

I hunt in a town park and frequently have hikers, joggers, dog walkers, bikers, etc pass by my tree stand. It's pretty easy to tell a hiker, biker or horse rider from a deer.

She also alluded to her concern for the suffering that bow hunting inflicts on the deer. When you are a deer, there is no good end to your life. They rarely live past age 5 and they don't pass peacefully in bed surrounded by family at a ripe old age. Deer either: starve to death when they get too old and their teeth get worn down/away, get chased down and eaten alive by coyotes (we very commonly find carcasses in the woods where coyotes have killed a deer, it's a very nasty scene) or they get hit by cars. In contrast I can tell you most deer never even realize that they have been hit by the arrow. Modern arrows are very sharp and pass quickly through the deer. Often the deer casually start to walk off, become wobbly and pass away quickly and painlessly.

Those who oppose Sunday hunting oppose all hunting, plain and simple.

As a management tool, Connecticut has a very generous bag limit, which is not the problem. The challenge is actually being able to successfully harvest with a bow. Again, it is an incredibly difficult thing to do. The majority of hunters work weekdays and can only hunt on Saturday. With this economy, many of them even have to work Sat to make a living. If you wish to increase the deer harvest adding Sunday hunting will do more than any other thing that you could do.

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