

March 16, 2014

Environment Committee Testimony

Re: HB 5080, AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.

We are writing today to urge you to oppose HB 5080, which would allow Sunday hunting in the state of Connecticut.

The most common arguments for Sunday hunting—that an additional day will help hunters further “manage” our deer population and thereby reduce the prevalence of Lyme Disease in the state—do not hold up, as hunting merely reduces the competition for food and other resources among deer, allowing them to reproduce at greater rates. Both the problems of deer overpopulation and Lyme require much more creative, thoughtful approaches than simply killing more deer, and the push for Sunday hunting will do little more than provide hunters with another day to dedicate to their hobby.

Despite the fact that hunters can already hunt deer six days a week for a third of the year, a small but vocal minority of Connecticut residents—the 1% of our population who actively hunts—continues to demand the ability to hunt on Sundays. I hope that you will listen to the 99% of the population who, like us, does not hunt, and would like to have at least one day a week to enjoy our time in the outdoors without the unsettling sights and sounds of hunting.

Please oppose HB 5080. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anthony and Caitlin Sorge