

MARCH 17, 2014

Testimony presented to THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF RAISED
BILL HB-5080 AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON PRIVATE
PROPERTY ON SUNDAY

Senator Meyer
Representative Gentile
Members of the Committee

My name is Tip Garritt and I represent the Connecticut Trappers Association on DEEP'S Conservation Advisory Council. I wholeheartedly support raised HB- 5080- An act concerning deer management programs on private property and authorizing bow and arrow hunting on private property on Sundays. I know that DEEP needs every option available to successfully manage the deer population in Connecticut You have heard this many times. IT IS TRUE.

There are 13 deer management zones in Connecticut. Only 5 of these zones have healthy, sustainable deer populations. The remaining 8 zones, which include 123 towns out of 169 have an overabundant deer population. Obviously, more deer hunting days will help to resolve this problem.

Deer hunting with a bow is safe, it does not jeopardize public safety.

Bow hunting does not limit other outdoor activities on private land, rather landowners determine what recreational pursuits will occur on their property.

No Sunday deer hunting is the last of the blue laws. Why should the deer hunting segment of the population be discriminated against? 42 states presently allow deer hunting on Sunday. Must Connecticut always be last?

In summary, it is high time that Sunday deer hunting with a bow and arrow be legalized in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.