

Chairman Meyer, Chairwoman Gentile, and Honorable Committee Members:

Opening Sundays to bowhunting is *essential* to restoring and maintaining healthy deer populations in Connecticut. As you must have noticed, this year bowhunting harvests surpassed firearms harvest. We have a terrible problem with over-population in some areas of the state. For situations like those in Redding, CT to be avoided (where \$80,000 in funds were used to have professional riflemen shoot 200 deer), Sunday hunting must be opened up. Most sportspeople, like myself, must work weekdays leaving only Saturdays and a handful of vacation days to be out in the woods.

The one part of the bill I am against is the no shooting within 40-yards of a blazed trail. If you didn't know, the United Underwriters have rated Archery as a safer sport than ALL ball sports - even golf! The perception that bowhunters are any danger to human beings is simply that - false perception. Also, I believe that private land is private land, and landowners ought to be able to grant permission for their entire property as they see fit.

Respectfully submitted,
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