

Testimony for HB 5080

To all concerned,
I'd like to voice my support for HB 5080, an act allowing Sunday bow hunting on private property. Here are some aspects I'd like you to consider as you debate this bill.

Sunday hunting on private property will positively impact the State by helping to reduce the deer herd, by increasing opportunities for hunters to harvest deer. It will increase revenue by attracting more hunting license purchases (i.e. instead of going out of state on Sunday, which is what many hunters are forced to do.) Bow hunters are some of the most skilled, professional, and careful hunters there are. They have to be, because in order to get close enough to kill a deer with a bow, you have to be patient, well-practiced, and sure of your skills and equipment. Bow-kills are quick and effective, the animals expire very swiftly with a properly placed shot. Bow hunting is virtually silent... it has to be, or the deer run away. As you may know, most bow hunters hunt from trees and they are shooting downward at about 20-30 yards maximum. The arrow shot from a tree stand will stick into the ground and not continue to harm anyone except the deer it is being aimed at.

Bow hunters consume the venison for their families, as well as donate meat to shelters and food banks to help the needy. By reducing the deer herd, it helps to maintain deer to be healthy and proportionate to the food sources, instead of seeing them starve or be eaten alive by coyotes. That is a terrible thing to see, but a reality when the deer herd is allowed to flourish unchecked by responsible hunting practices. Sunday bow hunting will have no adverse impact to neighboring properties, or really to anyone. Someone brought up how this law would impact Sunday hikers: not true. No one should be hiking on private property without the landowner's consent.

Consider vehicular deer strikes that occur daily on CT's roadways; besides the high insurance costs, many people (including children) get injured from vehicular deer strikes annually. Additional hunting days will help to reduce the deer numbers, and vehicular deer strikes.

It is also important to consider the impact on health impact and costs from Lyme's disease, carried by deer. It is a debilitating sickness, the impact of which can be better managed by reducing the deer herd through effective hunting. Allowing Sunday hunting increasing hunting opportunities by having two days over a weekend, for those who work (i.e. and can't hunt during the week).

Last year this Bill had significant support and was voted in by one CT house, but was dropped before final approval due to some political maneuvering.
I hope that this bill is looked at closely, and approved by the committee this year.

It's time to end the Sunday blue laws, and come into the 21st century by approving this bill.
Thanks for considering my thoughts on this important matter.
Respectfully submitted,

Henry Altman
Killingworth, CT