

Coalition of CT Sportsmen

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Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Thank you all for your time.

Support H. B. No. 5080 An Act Concerning Deer Management Programs On PRIVATE PROPERTY And Authorizing Bow And Arrow Hunting on PRIVATE PROPERTY On Sundays.

This bill allows private property owners to consent, with written permission, to deer management on Sundays utilizing archery, forty yards from a marked trail. Only on private property, only deer and only through the use of a bow and arrow.

Bow hunting is a proven method of deer management. 2013 saw a greater number of deer harvested by bow than by rifle and shotgun. The safety record of CT bow hunters is beyond argument. Both of these statements are supported by the CT DEEP. By reducing deer populations to more sustainable levels, we increase the food supply and reduce starvation and disease. This will also reduce the deer/vehicle collisions.

Including Sunday in the archery deer season will allow most hunters two days per week to hunt. In this economic climate more people, like me, are working six to seven days a week. Taking a day off to enjoy the outdoors is not easy. This will also encourage our three closest neighbors to say and hunt the whole weekend, contributing to the economy of the state.

Sunday hunting is the last remaining blue law. Hunting is legal every other day of the week, why not Sunday?

Most important, this is a private property rights issue.

The State entrusts DEEP with deer management yet ties one hand. Please lend your support to this bill. Thank you.