

Public Comment Regarding H.B. No.6034
AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE
PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS

March 18, 2015

I am writing this letter urging you **amend** H.B No. 6034 and pass an **amended** version only.

Please remove the following language from the bill:

“(1) Conduct such hunting only in deer management zones determined by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be overpopulated and only in accordance with and pursuant to the wildlife management principles and practices established by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.”

If this language is not removed, I do not support this bill. Alternatively I support the other less restrictive Sunday Hunting bill pending. Passing this bill with the above language would do more harm than good to CT Hunters in the long term. Sunday Hunting should not be conditioned upon an over population of deer. The DEEP has other tools at its disposal to manage deer populations through hunting, most notably bag limits. Too much emphasis is being placed on “justifying” hunting because it is a tool to manage deer. That is **not** what hunting is about, and the sooner lawmakers, hunters are regulators realize that the better.

Hunting is a healthy pursuit for both mind and body. It is in the best interest of Connecticut to encourage healthy lifestyles, and I can think of nothing better than hunting in this regard. Hunting promotes an active relationship and appreciation with the natural world and with the food we consume. In addition hunting brings families and friends closer together. My relationship with my late father and grandfather was enhanced greatly by spending time with him hunting. I know many that have regrets after the passing of loved ones and in retrospect wish they had spent more time with them. Thanks to hunting and the time shared in the outdoors, I have no such regrets. I am sure there are many fathers, sons, mothers and daughters that have had the same experience. A good friend of mine goes so far to credit hunting with saving his life by giving him a productive and healthy pursuit to replace destructive ones. Allowing hunting on Sunday would allow working family’s additional time in the woods that they may not otherwise have, and additional time hunting is always a good thing.

Please do the right thing here, and end the Sunday hunting ban.

Respectfully,

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