

Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis, and Honorable Committee Members:

Re: HB6034

Opening Sundays to bowhunting is essential to restoring and maintaining healthy deer populations in Connecticut. As you must have noticed, last year bowhunting harvests surpassed firearms harvests. We are having a terrible problem with over-population in some areas of the State. For situations like those in Redding to be avoided, (were some \$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 on 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 National Safety Council has rated archery as a safer sport than ALL ball sports including golf. The perception that bowhunters are any danger to human beings is simply that, a false perception. Also, I believe that landowners ought to be able to grant permission for their entire property as they see fit. A possible negative outcome may be that landowners could resent restrictions on their land use, and may have the trails which cross their properties closed.

Respectfully submitted,

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