



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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*Testimony by Representative Charles Ferraro
Before the Environment Committee
House Bill 6034
March 20, 2015*

Good afternoon Chairmen Kennedy and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of HB 6034, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY ON SUNDAYS.

According to Wayne MacCallum, Director of the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, "The Sunday hunting prohibition is a relic of puritanical rules, part of the so-called blue laws that were established back in Colonial Times." This Colonial ban on against bow hunting on Sundays is unfair and anachronistic. Today, 11 states continue the prohibition of the restriction of hunting on Sunday. Were these states to eliminate these outdated restrictions, and simply allow hunting on Sundays new jobs would be created. A report published by the National Shooting Sports Foundation claims up to 27,400 jobs could be created by lifting the ban and restrictions in all 11 states, potentially paying \$714,187,827.00 in wages and bringing in about \$2,216,691,102.00 in economic activity. In the State of Connecticut alone that would mean 496 jobs paying \$14,218,519.00 in wages and bringing in about \$38,245,866.00 in economic activity.

Sunday hunting is an important and proven measure used in a majority of our states to achieve game species management objectives. High deer densities are causing extensive damage to ecosystems and property in addition to causing risks to public health and safety through tick-borne illnesses the most common of which is Lyme Disease. Another problem brought about by overpopulation of deer is the increase in vehicle collisions. The addition of Sundays during the private land deer seasons would significantly increase deer harvest by increasing hunter opportunity. I feel strongly that landowners should be able to retain the right to determine who recreates on their properties, whether it is for hunting, hiking or other outdoor pursuits. Repealing the ban would be helpful for all because even if you are pro-wildlife, having overpopulation is bad for the environment.

With regards to the common argument that people want to enjoy nature without fear of coming into contact with an archer's arrow or seeing an injured animal or blood trail, there is little evidence to support such concerns. Hunters generally hike deep into the woods far away from public places. Archers are highly trained and generally sit in tree stands for upwards to six hours waiting for a deer to pass. Thus, it is a much more passive sport than hunting with a gun. Amy Mahler, spokesman for Massachusetts Environmental Police, said, "It is 'extremely uncommon' for archers to hurt non-archers in the woods."

Finally, banning hunting on Sundays keeps hunters from enjoying their life-style while still finding time for work and family during the rest of the week. In today's uber-hectic world, the two-day weekend is one of few brief moments families get to spend together. With soccer, tee-ball and other sports usually taking up most Saturdays, this leaves only Sunday for parents to take their children hunting. Remove that day what happens? Reduced recruitment, reduced participation and a future generation that doesn't know anything about hunting, other than a vague recollection that father used to do it.

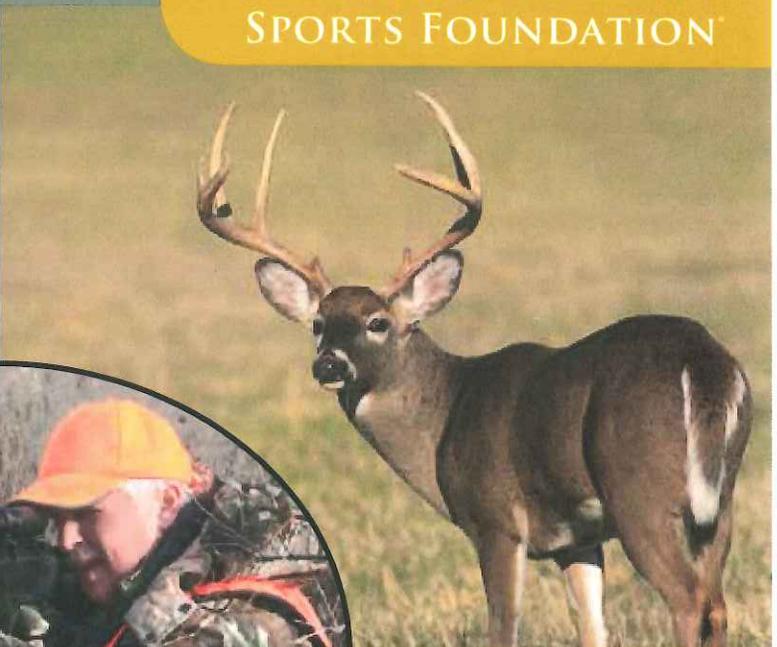
Thank you for holding this hearing on HB 6034. I wish to express my support for the legislation and ask for the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

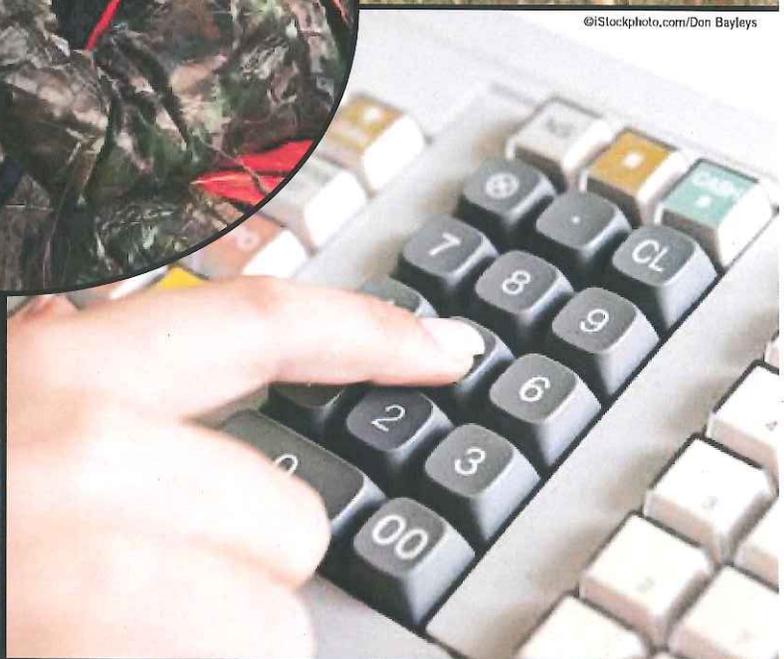
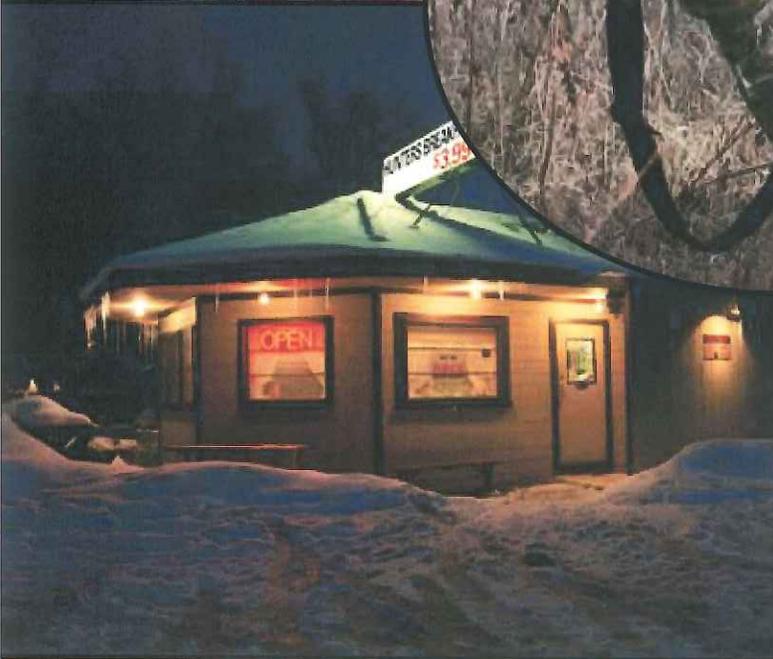
Rep. Charles Ferraro

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SUNDAY HUNTING

NATIONAL SHOOTING
SPORTS FOUNDATION



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Prepared for the National Shooting Sports Foundation by John Dunham and Associates, New York

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT ARE BLUE LAWS?

Sunday trade restrictions (or Blue Laws) were commonly enacted during the colonial period in America, and well into the 1800's. They were justified on "Old Testament" grounds.¹ However, as one author suggested, "While it is easy to think of economic reasons why God might have commanded us to stop working from time to time, it is not clear why He commanded us all to rest at the same time."²

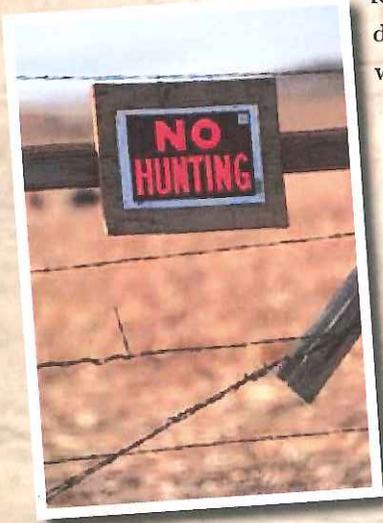
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During the later part of the 19th century, these restrictions began to be challenged by merchants' associations and by 1970 only 25 states still had Blue Laws. This number had fallen to 13 by 1984.³ As one economist suggests, positive externalities can arise from resting or enjoying free time collectively; however, negative externalities can also result from synchronized economic activity. This is especially true

for retail activities which by definition require some to work while others do not.⁴

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?



HOW CHANGE CAN IMPACT

Today, 11 states either prohibit or restrict hunting on Sunday. Were these states to eliminate these outdated restrictions, and simply allow hunting on all Sundays within the dates of the current hunting season, it is estimated that over 27,000 new jobs would be created. These are good jobs, paying over \$730 million in wages, and contributing about \$2.2 billion in additional economic activity to the states in question.

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¹ Price, Jamie and Bruce Yandle, Labor Markets and Sunday Closing Laws, Journal of Labor Research, 8:4, Fall 1987.

² Burda, Michael, and Philippe Weil, Blue Laws, Unpublished Working Paper, October 2005, <ftp://ftp.cemfi.es/pdf/papers/wshop/BurdaBlue.pdf>

³ Op cit. Price.

⁴ Op cit. Burda.

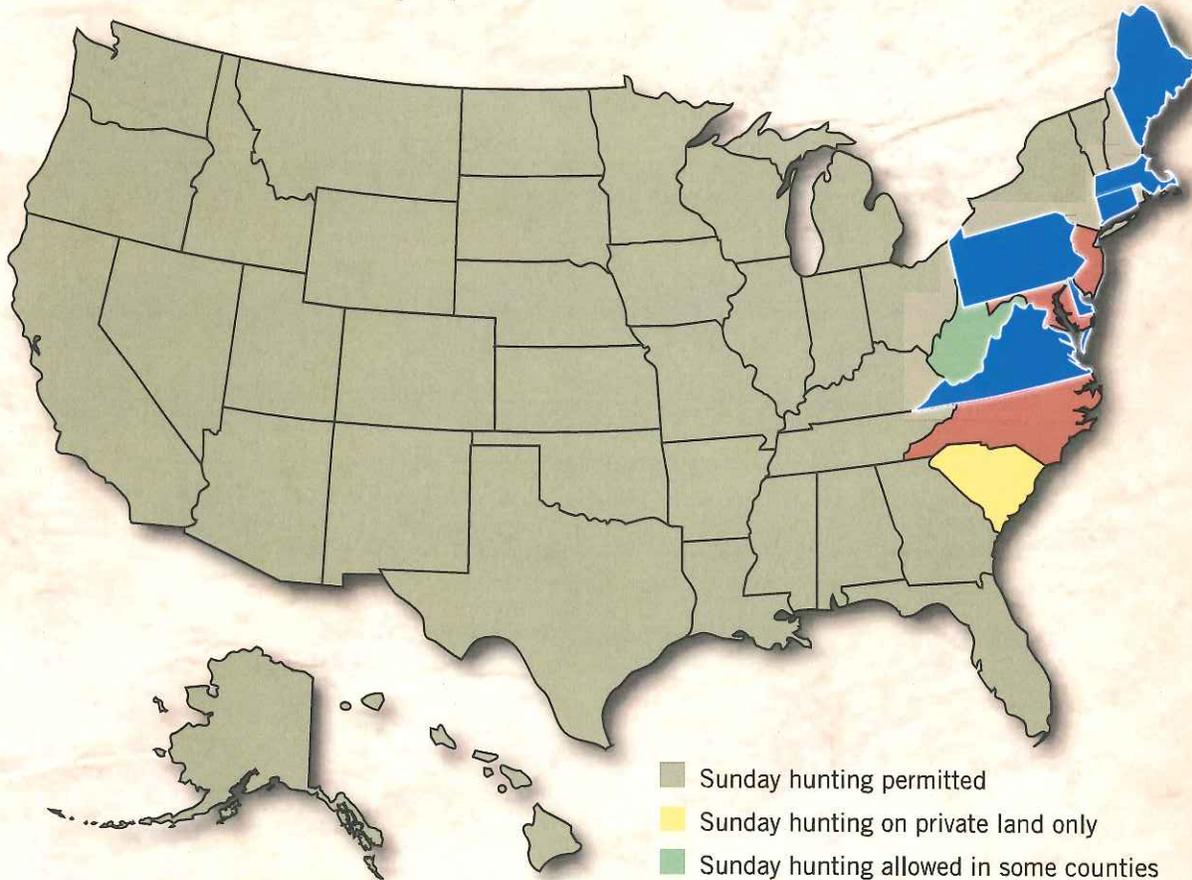
SUNDAY HUNTING REGULATIONS

The removal of bans on Sunday hunting in all 11 states analyzed could result in over 27,000 new jobs being created, paying over \$730 million in wages, and contributing about \$2.2 billion in additional economic activity.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LIFTING SUNDAY HUNTING BAN IN ALL 11 STATES				
	Direct	Supplier	Induced	Total
Jobs	16,790	3,505	7,105	27,400
Wages	\$339,730,558	\$149,358,382	\$245,098,887	\$734,187,827
Output	\$868,425,909	\$519,704,953	\$828,560,240	\$2,216,691,102

The National Shooting Sports Foundation Sunday Hunting Economic Impact study measures the impact of lifting laws which currently prohibit or grossly restrict the sport on Sundays. State law which currently either prohibits or restricts hunting on Sunday exists in the following states:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- West Virginia



- Sunday hunting permitted
- Sunday hunting on private land only
- Sunday hunting allowed in some counties
- Sunday hunting allowed in limited instances
- Sunday hunting prohibited

Top priorities: Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maine and Massachusetts (5)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ELIMINATING SUNDAY HUNTING BANS IN THE 11 STATES WHERE THESE RESTRICTIONS EXIST

DIRECT IMPACTS

STATE	JOBS	WAGES	OUTPUT
Connecticut	342	\$7,289,687	\$16,373,843
Delaware	225	\$5,407,561	\$13,790,990
Maine	1,148	\$23,288,497	\$57,854,038
Maryland	1,164	\$26,360,267	\$66,559,956
Massachusetts	301	\$7,586,905	\$20,398,572
New Jersey	561	\$17,184,578	\$41,138,452
North Carolina	2,173	\$41,299,598	\$121,057,430
Pennsylvania	4,405	\$99,402,142	\$264,510,822
South Carolina	1,966	\$30,192,993	\$71,39,895
Virginia	2,568	\$52,383,152	\$121,112,112
West Virginia	1,936	\$29,335,179	\$73,689,798
TOTAL	16,790	\$339,730,558	\$868,425,909

INDUCED IMPACTS

STATE	JOBS	WAGES	OUTPUT
Connecticut	105	\$4,434,293	\$13,807,607
Delaware	88	\$3,231,298	\$10,627,237
Maine	524	\$15,452,837	\$52,223,489
Maryland	595	\$21,976,374	\$69,433,466
Massachusetts	149	\$6,431,677	\$19,414,951
New Jersey	288	\$12,577,664	\$40,620,613
North Carolina	879	\$28,888,999	\$101,418,333
Pennsylvania	2,545	\$92,475,459	\$313,082,159
South Carolina	558	\$16,677,858	\$59,276,608
Virginia	896	\$30,508,791	\$103,527,982
West Virginia	477	\$12,443,639	\$45,127,793
TOTAL	7,105	\$245,098,877	\$828,560,240

INDIRECT IMPACTS

STATE	JOBS	WAGES	OUTPUT
Connecticut	49	\$2,494,540	\$8,064,416
Delaware	33	\$1,471,651	\$5,543,130
Maine	205	\$6,443,176	\$23,605,564
Maryland	258	\$10,795,952	\$34,440,408
Massachusetts	77	\$3,908,138	\$11,318,308
New Jersey	142	\$7,927,384	\$25,771,562
North Carolina	547	\$24,156,702	\$88,715,232
Pennsylvania	1,243	\$53,752,834	\$186,698,508
South Carolina	218	\$7,728,134	\$26,951,926
Virginia	462	\$22,270,960	\$71,655,048
West Virginia	272	\$8,408,910	\$36,940,851
TOTAL	3,505	\$149,358,382	\$519,704,953

TOTAL IMPACTS

STATE	JOBS	WAGES	OUTPUT
Connecticut	496	\$14,218,519	\$38,245,866
Delaware	346	\$10,110,510	\$29,961,357
Maine	1,877	\$45,184,510	\$133,683,092
Maryland	2,017	\$59,132,593	\$170,433,829
Massachusetts	527	\$17,926,719	\$51,131,832
New Jersey	991	\$37,689,626	\$107,530,627
North Carolina	3,599	\$94,345,299	\$311,190,995
Pennsylvania	8,193	\$245,630,435	\$764,291,489
South Carolina	2,742	\$64,598,985	\$158,168,430
Virginia	3,927	\$105,162,903	\$296,295,142
West Virginia	2,686	\$50,187,727	\$155,758,443
TOTAL	27,400	\$731,187,827	\$2,216,691,102

METHODOLOGY

The economic impact from lifting the ban on hunting on Sunday is based on data from *Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy* produced by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. Hunting and Fishing includes data on the existing direct, supplier, and induced economic impacts of hunting on the various sectors of the economy including agriculture, construction, travel and entertainment, manufacturing, retail, and wholesale in all fifty states.

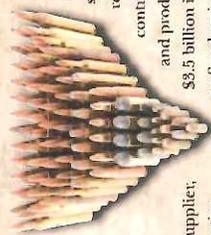
Direct impacts include jobs, output, and wages created from primary hunter expenditures ranging from licenses, ammunition, and hunting supplies to food, fuel, and magazines. Supplier impacts occur when hunters' activities require goods and services such as steel, wood, banking, and mechanics. Induced impacts include any jobs, output, and wages created from the expenditure of wages earned from direct and supplier impacts such as clothing retail stores and pharmacies to furniture and jewelry. The data from this report were further analyzed by John Dunham and Associates. JDA created an allocation formula which was not used in the Hunting and Fishing report, which accounted for spending by out of state firms in each state's economy. As such, the model used here

accounts for cross-border

purchases, while the Hunting and Fishing report measured only the economic contribution of direct spending in each state. Based on this refined analysis, the sport currently contributes about \$11,000 jobs earning about \$3.5 billion in wages in the 11 states which hunting on Sundays is either banned or restricted.

The estimated impacts from a lift on the ban on Sunday hunting are based on responses to surveys of hunters in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In these two states, government agencies

conducted extensive surveys of hunters in which they were asked to report the number of additional days they would participate in hunting if the Sunday hunting ban were to be lifted. Based on these responses, it is estimated that hunters will participate in, on average, about 22 percent of the additional days made available to them from the lifting of the ban. In other words, if the lifting of restrictions increased the number of hunting days by 10, the average hunter would increase their hunting days by about two. While the surveys provide a benchmark, the actual amount of additional hunting would also depend on the level of current "hunting intensity," or the relationship between the average amount of time spent hunting, and the number of days available for hunting in the season.



SUNDAY HUNTING COALITION



BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB
Fair Chase and Conservation
1872-1997



MULE DEER FOUNDATION





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