

March 11, 2016 Environment Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Environment Committee:

My name is Chris M Marino, I serve as Secretary to the Northwest CT Sportsman's Council. Our Council is composed of 27 sportsmen's clubs and associations located throughout Northwest CT. Our combined membership exceeds 5,000 citizens of the state.

I write to provide testimony on behalf of our NW Council, in support of Raised Bill No. 5582, (AA Concerning The Private Land Revolver Hunting Permit.)

Our state legislature enacted a bill in 2010, (P.A. 10-99) providing for a, "Private Land Revolver Deer Hunting Permit." As a result of that legislation, sportsmen and women throughout the state have enjoyed five years of enhanced deer hunting opportunity on private lands throughout our state. There have been no safety incidents or infractions during these years of legal handgun hunting for deer.

We now have before us a bill that would simply add single shot handguns as legal implements to hunt deer on private land. We feel that by their very nature, a single shot handgun is the safest firearm implement available for deer hunting.

Our advocacy of 5582 is derived from the fact that many of our Connecticut sportsmen currently own single shot handguns and want to use them for hunting, which is their primary intended use. Most single shot handguns in use are of a break open design, whereby the barrel is actually separated from the action of the handgun, which exposes the firing chamber to open view for safe carrying and handling. Further, most single shot handguns are designed to accept sling attachments, (carry straps) which allows safe carry and use in elevated stands, such as tree stands, which is the primary method of hunting deer with a handgun.

As with the revolver, the effective range of single shot handgun is relatively short, and cartridge velocities are much lower than that of a rifle or shotgun. As with the revolver, lower velocities and shorter range equate to safer hunting situations.

Finally, we would suggest that passage of 5582 would result in increased licensing revenue to the DEEP.

We ask your consideration of 5582, and urge passage of this bill. As one who is very familiar with all types of sporting firearms, I offer myself to answer any questions the committee members may have on this bill. I can be reached by e-mail or phone: 860 491-4867. I will make myself available anytime. Please do not hesitate if there are any questions. Thank You.

Sincerely

Chris M Marino
Secretary: NWCSC
3 Bare Hill Road,
Goshen, CT 06756