

I have strong beliefs and support about this from an economic standpoint, but I want to take a couple minutes to provide support for this bill from a different angle. This secondary argument, is one I feel even stronger about and feel should be heard.

For some working families, there are currently 5 Days a year that are critical for putting food (meat) on the table throughout the year, the four Saturdays in November and Thanksgiving. For some families, those are the only non-work days they have to hunt for food that they will put in their freezer as work fills the rest of the hunting days during the week. I was one of those families, growing up we had very modest means, and deer hunting season was extremely important for us. Between my dad, two brothers, and an Uncle, it was critically important to tag out 3-4 deer per season so we had meat to eat throughout the year. NO plans were made on Saturdays, as it was set aside for hunting, cleaning, and packaging if we were fortunate enough to get one. I can only imagine what increasing those days of opportunity by nearly 100% would have meant and will mean for some families that will otherwise struggle to put food on the table for their family throughout the year. Yes, for many, hunting is a hobby, a sport, or something else, but for my family growing up, it was why we had steaks, burgers, chops, roasts, and all the meals that were enjoyed from them.

As you consider the pros and cons of this decision, I hope helping to feed families is one that provides some extra meaning of support. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Shawn Michaud