

Denise Stektis
Canaan

TO: Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

I am writing in support of LD1033, An Act to Allow Sunday Hunting on PRIVATE property with written permission of the Landowner.

There are three key words in this bill. PRIVATE PROPERTY and LANDOWNER

The usual objections to Sunday hunting are landowners want to be able to walk in the woods or hike a trail without the worry of hunting activity. This bill does not infringe on the rights of people who choose not to allow hunting on their property on Sundays.

I started hunting 6 years ago. As a Town Clerk, my job can be extremely stressful. During this past election cycle, I was unable to take any days during the 1st week in November due to work deadlines and obligations. I had two bonus doe permits in an area that has highly populated herds of deer. I was unsuccessful, partly, for lack of time, to get there and hunt the area. Hunters who have full time jobs must strategically map out their vacation days if they are lucky enough to have time off available to them. Women hunters, like myself, who are the center of holiday meals and event planning forfeit their hunting times in order to uphold family holiday traditions. For myself, time spent hunting in the woods is as vital to me as air and water but my family time comes first. If I were to have the option of hunting on Sunday whether it be on my own property or with the generous permission of another property owner, the odds of me successfully filling my tags would be greatly increased.

This year I purchased my grandson Jack a lifetime hunting and fishing license. I have three grandsons and a granddaughter on the way. I look forward to teaching them the joy of the Maine outdoors and about hunting.

As I look at my upcoming year schedule and figure my days off, I am hopeful this bill will pass. For me, hunting is a passion. When I am in the woods hunting, I feel as though I am being the human I was born to be.

It means much more than harvesting animals. It means much more than putting meat in our freezer. It means much more than a trophy on the wall. It is about creating amazing moments with fellow hunters like my husband who witnessed my first harvest of a deer in 2016. It is about creating precious bonding moments with my grandchildren. More time for these things, cannot be wrong.

Respectfully submitted.

Denise Stektis of
Canaan