



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NEW ENGLAND

March 24, 2025

To Co-Chairs Rick Lopes and John-Michael Parker and the members of the Assembly Committee on Environment

RE: BHA Support of 2025 H.B. No. 7231, An Act Concerning Sunday Hunting.

On behalf of the Connecticut State Leadership Team and the New England Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, we strongly support H.B. No. 7231 which would remove the prohibition on Sunday hunting and give the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection the full authority to regulate hunting seasons for all seven days of the week.

We advocate for the expansion of Sunday Hunting in Connecticut for the following reasons:

- Sunday Hunting would provide increased opportunities for working adult hunters and school aged hunters to become more engaged in hunting and conservation. Opening Sunday to hunting will increase the opportunity to hunt by upwards of 25 days for all the various open seasons. In addition, Sunday hunting will result in additional economic benefits to the outdoor industry along with the rural communities and businesses that support it.
- Hunting is safe. According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, there have been 50 hunting accidents in Connecticut, including four fatalities of hunters, between 2000 and 2019. These accidents include 32 from a firearm or pellet gun, with the rest involving falling from a tree stand or natural causes. Non-hunters were the known accident victim in only two cases (both nonfatal).

In conclusion, the New England Chapter of BHA urges the Committee to pass H.B. No. 7231 not only to repeal the antiquated “Blue Law” but to increase access and opportunity for hunters while contributing significantly to the Connecticut economy.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,
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