



581 Madison Shop Rd
Rimersburg, PA 16248

Good evening Chairman Evans, Chairman Staback and members of the House Game & Fisheries Committee;

My name is Jennifer Sager. I am the President of the United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania and I am here tonight representing the UBP membership of 2800 men and women Bowhunters. Please know that the UBP appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1760.

This UBP membership consisting of over 1,000 Life Members, and just over 1,800 regular members is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection of bowhunting opportunities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The UBP supports game management based on sound biological principles, and a "resource first" philosophy. To date, the UBP is the longest-lasting organization solely supporting Bowhunters in the Commonwealth.

The UBP is governed by an elected Board of Directors and a slate of elected Officers. These Board Members and Officers set the stage for UBP position, and objectives based on our mandate. From time to time the general membership is polled on specific topics and those poll results dictate the action that the UBP Board and Officers take in regard to the subject at hand.

That said, the United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania recently conducted a membership poll which included opinion questions on the topic of Sunday Hunting in Pennsylvania. A previous poll on this subject was conducted in 2004. In order to evaluate any change in the UBP membership's opinion since 2004, we asked the same questions in our 2011 poll.

Even though membership numbers fluctuate year to year, and there has been some turn-over in membership since the 2004 poll, the results of the 2011 poll are identical to the results obtained in the 2004 poll. 67% of the membership of the UBP supports Sunday hunting statewide, however they do not support separation of a Sunday hunting opportunity between private and public lands.

The UBP supports that the science of game management should be handled by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). With all seasons, and hunting implements, for the various game species being independently regulated by the PGC. As the PGC Board of Commissioners has indicated their interest in regulating hunting on Sunday with the passage of their resolution on the topic, the UBP would like for them to have that opportunity with Sunday Hunting.

Joining me today is UBP Youth Member, Jillian Clemente. Jillian is here tonight to share with all of us her article on Sunday Hunting, which was recently published in the Reading Eagle.

Allowing hunting on Sundays would open up sport to youths and boost economy

By Jillian Clemente,
12 Indiana Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Sophomore, Wilson

The treasured Sundays of fall find teenagers sleeping in, families going to church and people taking leisurely hikes in the woods.

You know what I would like to do in the woods on Sundays?

Hunt.

Yet I can't go hunting on Sundays due to the ancient "blue law" established in 1873 when dinosaurs walked the earth with our parents.

This law prohibits hunting on Sundays for religious reasons. Most states have repealed these laws, saying they are unconstitutional. Pennsylvania, along with 10 other states, still bans and/or limits hunting on Sundays.

In June, the Pennsylvania Game Commission voted 4-3 to support Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania. This means that, if the Legislature passes the House Bill 1760, Sunday hunting will be legal and regulated by the Game Commission.

If either the "blue law" were deemed unconstitutional, or House Bill 1760 were passed it would mean my family and I could hunt on Sunday once a season is regulated by the Game Commission. It would also help the state's economy, creating a potential 4,400 jobs, according to pagnights.com. Also, hunting will appeal more to youth hunters because they'll have an extra day over the weekend to enjoy the sport.

You see, the best times to hunt are at dusk and dawn because that's when the deer are moving and looking for food. The people who are busy during the day would then have an extra day to carry on a sacred family tradition.

My whole family, with the exception of my mother, loves to hunt (bow or rifle). Ever since we could hold and properly operate a weapon, we have been hunting. All of us would love to hunt on Sundays to relax and just have fun, family-bonding time.

But, of course, there are the people who do not want the law changed. They claim that people can hunt during the week, and that should be good enough. I, of course, came up with a few examples to contradict that assertion.

For example, let's say I play soccer for my school and I have practice every weekday until 5:30 p.m. I get home and it is dark, so I cannot hunt. This limits my opportunities to Saturdays only. Oh, wait, that weekend there is a soccer tournament all day so I'm going to be too busy to hunt. Oops, well, there goes my week.

But what about adults' opportunities to hunt? What if they have a job that requires them to work 9 to 5 and some Saturdays? Archery season is six weeks long, but it seems just as short as the two-week rifle season if you don't even get an opportunity to go out in the woods.

It's funny. Some users of public land, such as hikers and bikers, were complaining about how they don't want to be disturbed on their excursions on Sundays, which is understandable. The ironic part is, what about during the week when they walk and scare deer away from the hunters on public land when they're trying to enjoy their sport?

By the way, if you are one of those people who use many of Berks County's public land and are against Sunday hunting, just remember that hunting license sales fund much of the public land you use.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you tonight.

Jillian mentioned several of the benefits of allowing hunting on Sunday. All of these benefits have been already realized in other states, however, it really boils down to one very basic thing, and that is providing the CHOICE, to the people of the

Commonwealth, so that they may choose what they wish to do with THEIR time. As Jillian mentioned, and as I am certain several of you can attest to, if your child or grandchild participates in a Fall sport chances are they are practicing until dark during the weekdays, and perhaps competing on Saturday for that tournament win. I personally work at a place where the fourth quarter is the busy season. Several of our employees whom are hunters, didn't even purchase a hunting license last year, as they had to work 6 days. Had a Sunday Hunting opportunity been available they would have purchased their license and gotten into the field, as I am certain some youth could have fit in a hunt or two between sports commitments.

The United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania supports a change in legislation that would remove the issue of Sunday hunting from the legislative process, and place it fully under the control of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The UBP supports House Bill 1760.

Hunting on Sunday, it really is just another activity for which the citizens of Pennsylvania should have the choice to participate in.

Thank you for allowing Jillian and I to provide this testimony tonight on behalf of the membership of the UBP. We would be glad to answer any questions you may have for us.