



May 14, 2018

Re: S-2249 An Act relative to the use of cross bows in hunting

Dear Members of the MA House Committee on Ways and Means,

I write today asking for your support of MA S-2249, an act relative to the use of cross bows in hunting, which is currently before your committee. As active, involved, responsible, safe, knowledgeable and humane hunters, we respectfully request that S-2249 be released from committee with a recommendation for passage. Several benefits of removing the statutory prohibition on hunting with cross bows include the following:

- Removing restrictions on cross bows will increase access to hunting for a wider range of hunters not physically capable of using archery equipment requiring the 40-pound pull requirement of current MA bow hunting regulations, including youth hunters.
- This legislation, if passed, will remove the burden on disabled hunters to prove their disability with a doctor's certification to be eligible to hunt with a cross bow.
- MA will not be the first state to allow cross bows for hunting. Today, most other states allow cross bows for hunting, most without any special restrictions including neighboring states RI and CT.
- This legislation, if passed, will enable the MA Division of Fish & Wildlife to regulate cross bows for hunting, as they currently do for the other types of archery equipment.
- Cross bows can deliver an accurate shot over safe-distances, the same as the current MA permitted archery equipment including long bows, recurve bows or compound bows. The modern cross bow has safety features to protect the hunter's hands and fingers, as well as safeguards to prevent accidental release of a cross bow bolt (the proper term for a cross bow arrow).
- Archery hunting is a quiet hunting method. Removing restrictions on cross bows can increase the number of bow hunters with no negative impact on the general public. There may be more positive impact on MA hunting zones for better deer herd-size management, which can be problematic in suburban areas, such as Zones 10-14.

We thank you for your time and request that you support of this important legislation and work to enact it in this session of the legislature.

Norco Sportsman's Club is a longtime established sporting club here in Worcester County and an active member of the Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs. Many of our members hunt and fish, and many would further enjoy hunting with a crossbow. Several members do hunt in other nearby states with a cross-bow; some have physical limitations and have doctor's review their abilities; and some youth want to experience deer hunting during archery season. We also support the MA Wildlife education programs by hosting every year Basic Hunter Ed, Youth Pheasant Program, and Youth Turkey Program.

Sincerely,

Mike LaFountain
President

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