

February 1, 2022

Honorable James E. Edmunds, II
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Representative Edmunds,

I am writing to oppose House Bill 124 which would lower the minimum rifle caliber for deer hunting in Virginia. Nearly all US states and Canadian provinces have a minimum caliber limit for deer hunting. In Virginia since the fall of 1957, the minimum caliber for deer hunting has been greater than or equal to 23 caliber. Caliber minimums are established to ensure a humane and ethical deer kill and, as a general rule and within reason, the larger the caliber the more lethal the rifle.

I oppose the passage of House Bill 124 for two reasons. First, House Bill 124 does not meet the most basic rule of Common Sense. The first rule of Common Sense states that, if it is not broke do not fix it. Virginia's current 23 caliber regulation has been in place for the last 64 consecutive years with no problems or issues. It is not broken. It does not need fixed.

The second reason I oppose House Bill 124 is that it fails to meet the most fundamental deer hunting ethic -- the ethic to make a single clean kill shot. House Bill 124 would lower the minimum rifle standard, and this will result in more wounded and/or crippled deer.

Why would Virginia adopt a bill that will unnecessarily result in more wounded and/or crippled deer being left in the deer woods each fall?

Sincerely,



Matt Knox
1839 Timber Ridge Road
Bedford, VA 24523
(540) 875-9015
wmattknox@aol.com