



Virginia Bowhunters Association
1223 Jeanette Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179



TO: THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**The Virginia Bowhunters Association wholeheartedly
ENDORSES and SUPPORTS Senate Bill 8!**

Virginia Bowhunters Association is one of the oldest hunting advocacy groups in the Commonwealth. We were instrumental in getting bowhunting approved by Virginia's Game Department in 1949. We believe our position represents Virginia's 95,000 bowhunters.

We urge you to vote YES on SB 8 for these reasons:

- **Sunday hunting is safe for all users and will increase equality of access to our public lands.** *There has been only ONE two-person hunting incident involving a non-hunter on public land in the last 10 years.* Hunting is one of the safest recreational activities in America, ranking third behind only billiards and camping. You are 25 more times likely to be injured bicycle riding than hunting. (National Shooting Sports Foundation; VA DWR)
- **The Board of the VA DWR supports Sunday hunting.** The Board states that there is no game management reason for continuing a ban on hunting on public land. The Board's Resolution of October 2021 calls for ALL Virginia hunters and recreational enthusiasts to be treated equally and given full access to public land.
- **Positive Economic Impact.** SB 8 will create nearly 4,000 new jobs and increase the state economy by almost \$300 million. (Sunday Hunting Coalition, led by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and joined by 16 other outdoor organizations).
- **Sunday hunting is widespread and successful.** Currently 43 states allow hunting on Sunday to some extent. When Sunday hunting on private land was passed in Virginia, the "widespread conflicts" predicted by opponents did not materialize. Game populations have not been harmed. (Roanoke Times, VA DWR, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation)
- **Sunday as a mandatory day of rest restricts the rights of individuals to choose their own form and time of rest and worship.** Golf, fishing, boating (all more dangerous than hunting) and almost all other forms of outdoor recreation are allowed on Sunday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Shannon Nesselrodt.

Shannon Nesselrodt
President
Virginia Bowhunters Association