

200 Sportsmen Club	Harvard Sportsmen's Club
Auburn Sportsmans Club	Holliston Sportsmen's Association
Barre Sportsmens Club	Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club
Black Patch Muzzleloaders	Leicester Rod and Gun Club
Blackstone Valley Beagle Club	Leominster Sportsmens Club
Brookfield Rod and Gun	Marlborough Fish and Game Club
Century Sportsmen's Club	Maspenock Rod and Gun Club
Eight Point Sportsmen's Club	Mass. Women's Gun Owners Assn.
Fitchburg Sportsmens Club	Millers River Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Fitchburg Sportsmens Club	New England Fly Tyers
Gardner Rifle and Pistol Club	Nimrod League of Holden
Hamilton Rod and Gun Club	Norco Sportsmens Club



North Brookfield Sportsmens Club	Spencer Fish and Game
North Grafton Fish, Game and Bird	Templeton Fish and Game Club
North Worcester Fox and Coon Club	Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
NWTF Central Mass	Uxbridge Rod and Gun Club
Otter River Sportsman Club	Webster Fish and Game
Petersham Gun Club	Westminster Rod and Gun Club
Royalston Fish and Game Club	Whitinsville Fish and Game Club
Rutland Sportsmans Club	Wickaboag Sportsmens Club
Singletary Rod and Gun Club	Worcester Fish and Game Association
South Barre Rod and Gun Club	Worcester Pistol and Rifle Club
South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club	
Southborough Rod and Gun Club	

Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs
P.O. Box 766, West Boylston, MA 01583

April 18, 2019

Re: H-846 An Act relative to the use of cross bows in hunting

Dear Members of the MA Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture:

I write today asking for your support of H-846, an act relative to the use of cross bows in hunting, which is currently before your committee. The Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs represents some 30,000+ sportsmen and women of Worcester County. As active, involved, responsible, safe, knowledgeable and humane hunters, we respectfully request that H-846 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 NY, VT, ME, NH, and 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.

The Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs strongly supports H-846. 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.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Adams

WCL Corresponding Secretary