

Testimony in opposition to H8451: Deer Hunting

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

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To: Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

I would suggest a more humane way of mitigating Lyme disease as a first step should be eliminating barberry plants before killing more deer. These plants are invasives and are correlated with the increase presence of ticks as they are extremely effective in facilitating their increased numbers. (See Entomology Today: [Manage Japanese Barberry to Keep Tick Levels Low, Reduce Lyme Risk](#).) It would certainly be more humane to the deer to require state and municipal properties to eliminate barberry plants. It would also aid private landowners if the sale of barberry plants could be prohibited. If the purpose of this bill is to address increasing cases of Lyme disease and not the ability to kill more deer, I would suggest this method be tried first.