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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (August 2013)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources

Assembly Bill 384

Relating to: weapons that may be used to hunt certain animals and requirements for establishing open hunting seasons for those animals.

By Representatives Tauchen, Craig, Sinicki, Petryk, Kleefisch, Rivard, Krug, Endsley and Spanbauer; cosponsored by Senators Schultz and Taylor.

November 16, 2011 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

January 18, 2012 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Gary Tauchen, Madison — Representative, 6th Assembly District
- Ron Kulas, Delafield — Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
- Jeff Geitner, Arlington — Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
- Ralph Fritsch, Townsend — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Bob Welch, Madison — Wisconsin Bearhunters Association
- David Peterson, West Salem — Game Getters' Bowhunting Club
- Bruce Haukom, Cambridge
- Steve Schultz, Butternut
- Randy Senzig, Portage

Appearances Against

- Alan Schimelpfenig, Grafton — Wisconsin Crossbow Federation
- Perry Schneeberg

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- William McCrary, DeForest

- Duane Maatz, Wausau — Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association
- Nathan Franklin, LaCrosse — Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Tom Lochner, Wisconsin Rapids — Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association
- Kelly Kulas, Delafield
- Sheila Geitner, Arlington
- Guy Schultz, Fredonia
- David Tabbert, Onalaska — Coulee Archers
- Shirley Allen, Omro
- Wright Allen, Omro
- Donald Voss, Beaver Dam — Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
- Don Rogalski, Clintonville
- Ken Metzendorf, Horicon
- Larrie Hazen, Mount Hope — Grant County Sportsmen Alliance
- John Wilk, Mindoro — Coulee Archers
- Paul Stuhr, LaCrosse — Coulee Archers
- Barry Troug, Holmen — Coulee Archers
- Mike Wehler, Plain — Wisconsin Pork Producers Association
- Tom Gorski, Sussex
- John Gavin, Sussex
- James Pruetz, Sussex — Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
- Paul Voltz, Walworth — Big Foot Archers
- Mark Voltz, Lake Geneva — Bigfoot Archers
- Tony Fecteau, Lake Geneva — Bigfoot Archers
- Carrie Fecteau, Lake Geneva — Bigfoot Archers
- Art Davis, Pewaukee
- Roger Scheel, Pewaukee
- Dale Schultz, Madison — Senator, 17th Senate District
- Terry Conradt, Shiocton

Registrations Against

- Genie Ogden, Madison

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

February 1, 2012

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (15) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke,

Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason,
Danou, Clark and Milroy.
Absent: (1) Representative Hulsey.
Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Nerison, seconded by Representative Rivard that **Assembly Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.
Noes: (0) None.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 16, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Kleefisch, seconded by Representative Rivard that **Assembly Amendment 2** be recommended for adoption.

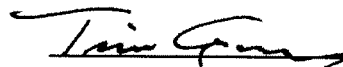
Ayes: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.
Noes: (0) None.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 16, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Kleefisch, seconded by Representative Nerison that **Assembly Bill 384** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (16) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Steineke, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark, Milroy and Hulsey.
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 16, Noes 0



Tim Gary
Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 1, 2012

Meeting Type: Executive Session

Location: 417 North State Capitol, Grand Army of the Republic Room; State Capitol; Madison, Wisconsin

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____



Tim Gary
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 1, 2012

Moved by: Nerison

Seconded by: RIVARD

AB 384 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 1, 2012

Moved by: Kleefisch

Seconded by: RIVARD

AB 384 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 2

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 1, 2012

Moved by: Kleefisch

Seconded by: Nerison

AB 384 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
 Adoption
 Confirmation
 Concurrence
 Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction
 Rejection
 Tabling
 Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature

FROM: Ron Kuehn and Jeff Geitner
for the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association

DATE: December 7, 2011

SUBJECT: **Support AB 384** (Tauchen and Schultz lead sponsors), a **bipartisan bill** also sponsored by Representatives Craig, Sinicki, Petryk, Kleefisch, Rivard, Krug, Endsley and Spanbauer, and Senator Taylor

LIKELY HEARING DATE:

January 18, 2012 in Assembly Natural Resources

I. What the Bill Does

- A. Defines—Archery (Bows) and Crossbows
The bill defines a crossbow separate from a bow. Crossbow hunting is NOT archery.
- B. Protects—The Current Archery/Deer Season—for Archers
Wisconsin archers number over 200,000 annually (compared to deer/gun hunters at about 600,000 annually).
- C. Creates—Expanded Opportunities for Crossbow Users (and Archers)
The bill expands hunting opportunities for crossbow users to include all hunting seasons during which a gun may be used for: deer, bear, small game, turkeys. (The same opportunity is also provided to archers.) There is **no age restriction** for crossbow use during these gun seasons.
- D. Retains—Current Age and Disability Use for Crossbows During Deer/Archery Season
Currently, the law allows hunters either over the age of 65 or who are disabled to hunt with a crossbow during the deer/archery season. This is retained.

II. Rationale/Need for this Legislation

- A. Bows are not Crossbows
Crossbows are discharged from the shoulder, often include a scope and have a nearly level trajectory for 50 yards. In contrast the typical 60# bow has a release nearly level trajectory for only 28 yards (the arrow drops 40 inches at 50 yards). Crossbows have nearly 3 times the kinetic energy and are far more accurate than a bow. (See attached charts.)

B. Crossbow Use Expanded into Gun Seasons

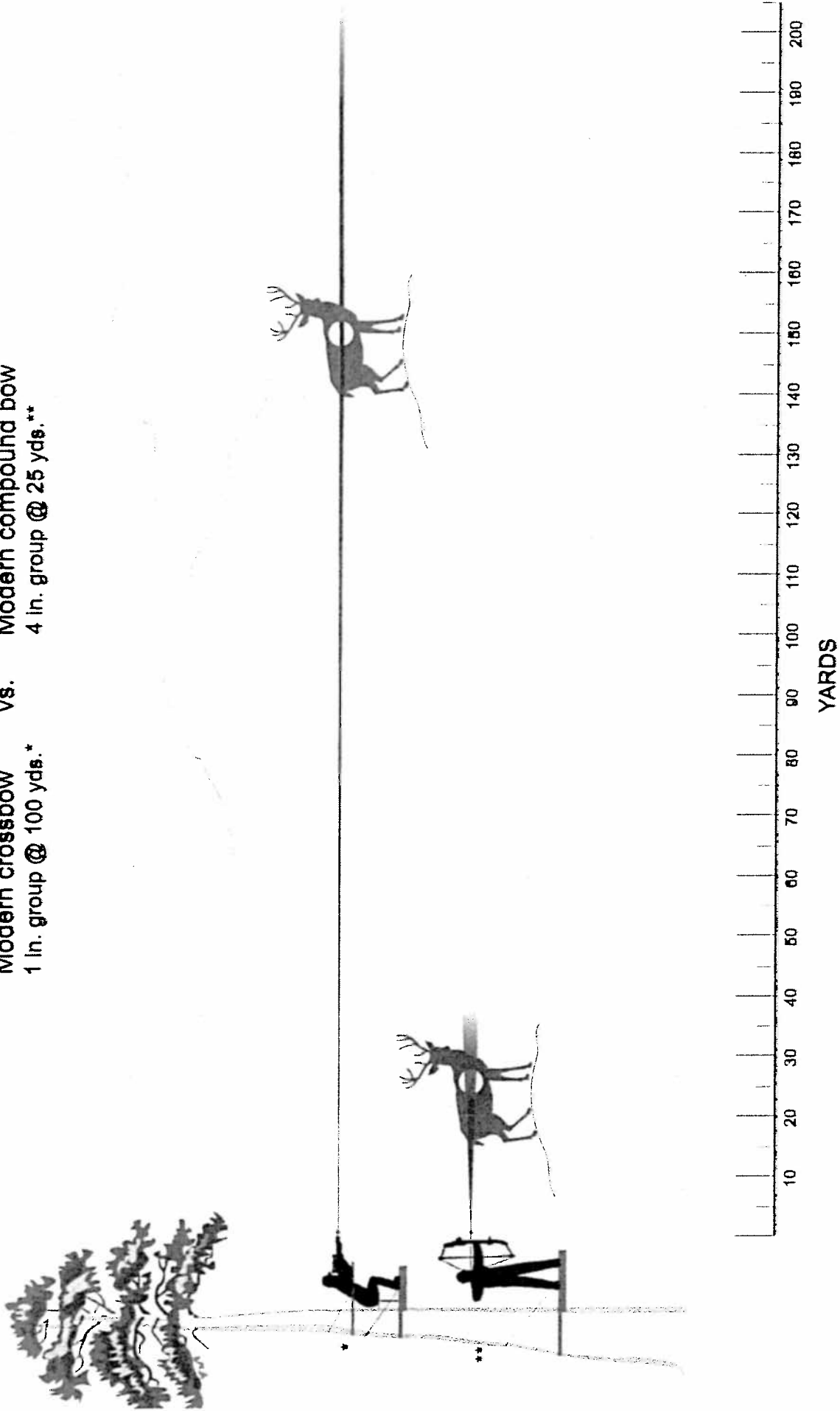
Crossbow use is more akin to using a gun. Therefore, the expansion of crossbow use into hunting seasons currently reserved only for guns (not archery) is appropriate.

C. Bows Only During Archery Deer Season (with Current Exceptions)

Archery is a very broadly supported sport in Wisconsin with over 200,000 licenses sold annually. The Wisconsin archery tradition would be substantially diminished if crossbow use during the deer/archery season were to be expanded. (See Georgia experience chart attached where there was a 33% reduction in archery hunters after 6 years following the introduction of crossbows into the archery season.)

ACCURACY COMPARISON

Modern crossbow vs. Modern compound bow
1 in. group @ 100 yds.* 4 in. group @ 25 yds.**

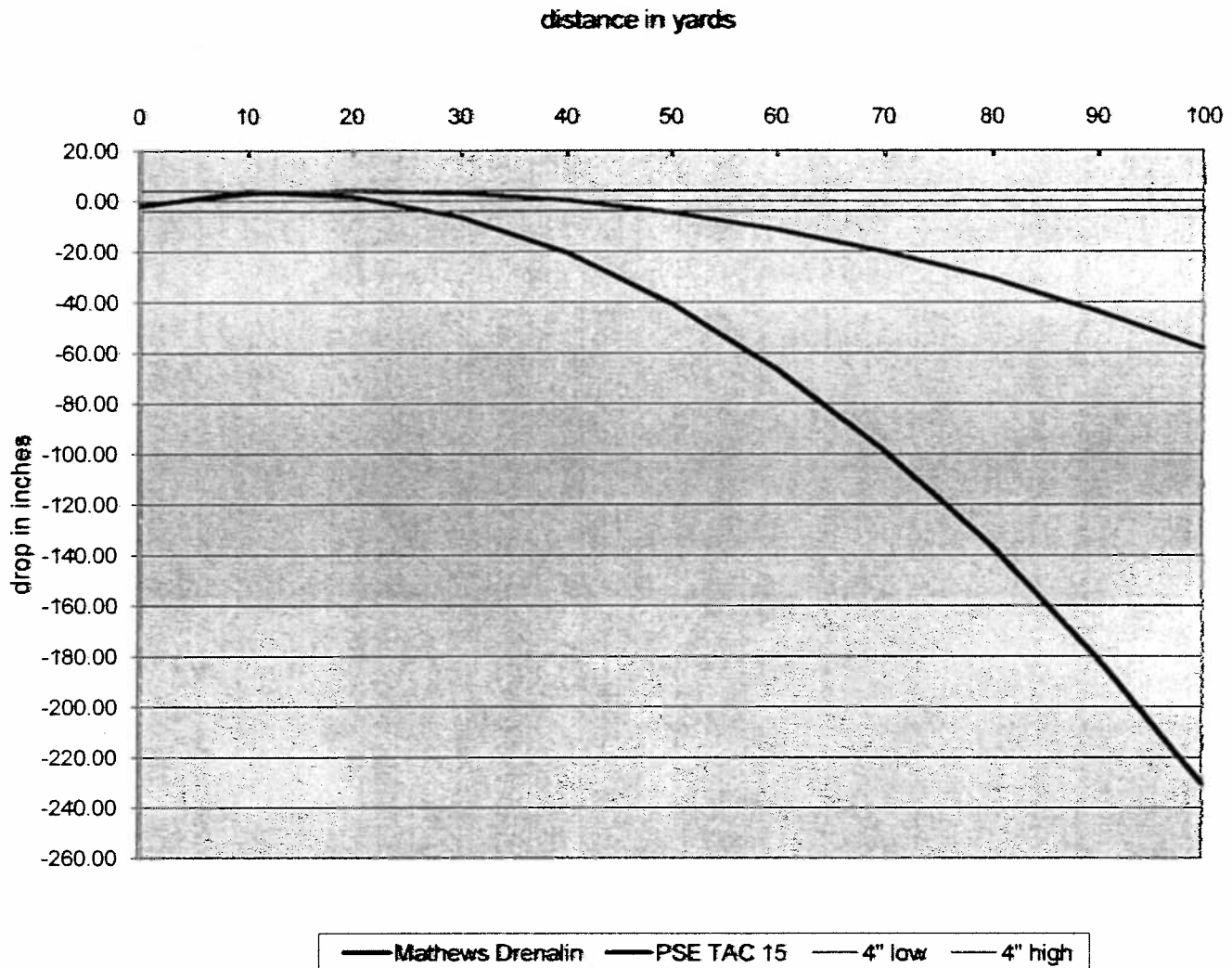


*Engineering performance description, PSE TAC 15 crossbow, PSE's Paul Penix video, ATA show, 2008

** Average group diameter, top 10 shooters, Wisconsin State Broadhead Shoot, 2008

Trajectory Comparison

popular modern compound bow vs. modern crossbow *



Modern crossbow

PSE TAC 15

- ** set at 170 lbs. (drawn with a winch requiring 12 lbs. cranking pressure)
- 26.25 inch projectile, 4" vanes, 485 grains (18.4 gr/in) @ 420 feet per second velocity

Popular high-performance compound bow

Mathews Drenalin

- ** set up at AMO (Archery Manufacturers Organization) standard:
- 60 lbs. (hand drawn)
- 30 inch arrow, 4" vanes, 540 grains (18.0 gr/in) @ 241 feet per second velocity

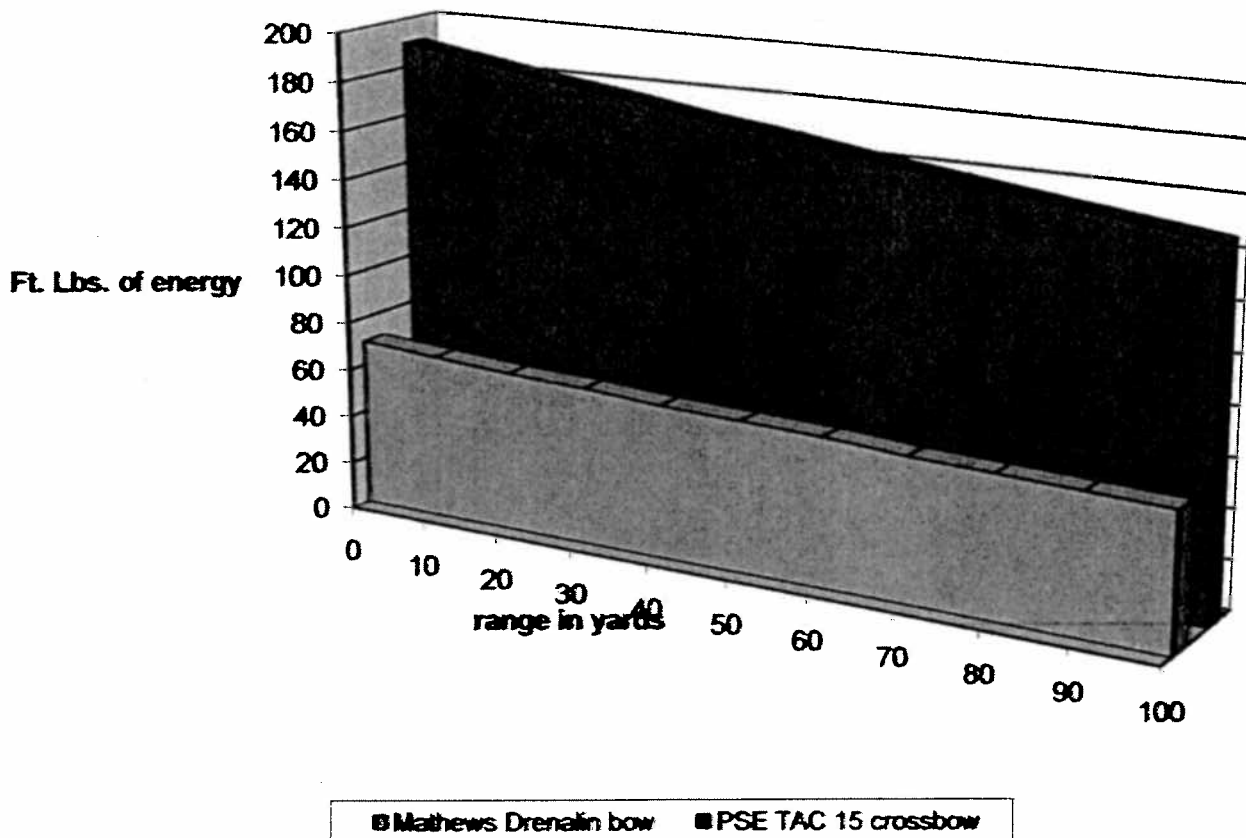
8 inch depth of kill comparison for single sight setting

*Roy S Marlow - Arrow Trajectory, Bowhunting World, Feb. 1995

**Paul Penix - PSE Archery representative, PSE TAC 15 video & GunShowReview.com, SHOT show PSE & Vltor

***Mathews Inc. AMO specifications, Drenalin

Kinetic Energy Comparison to 100 yds. modern crossbow vs. popular modern compound bow*



Modern crossbow

PSE TAC 15

** set at 170 lbs. (drawn with a winch requiring 12 lbs. cranking pressure)
26.25 inch projectile, 4" vanes, 485 grains (18.4 gr/in) @ 420 feet per second velocity

Popular high-performance
compound bow

Mathews Drenalin

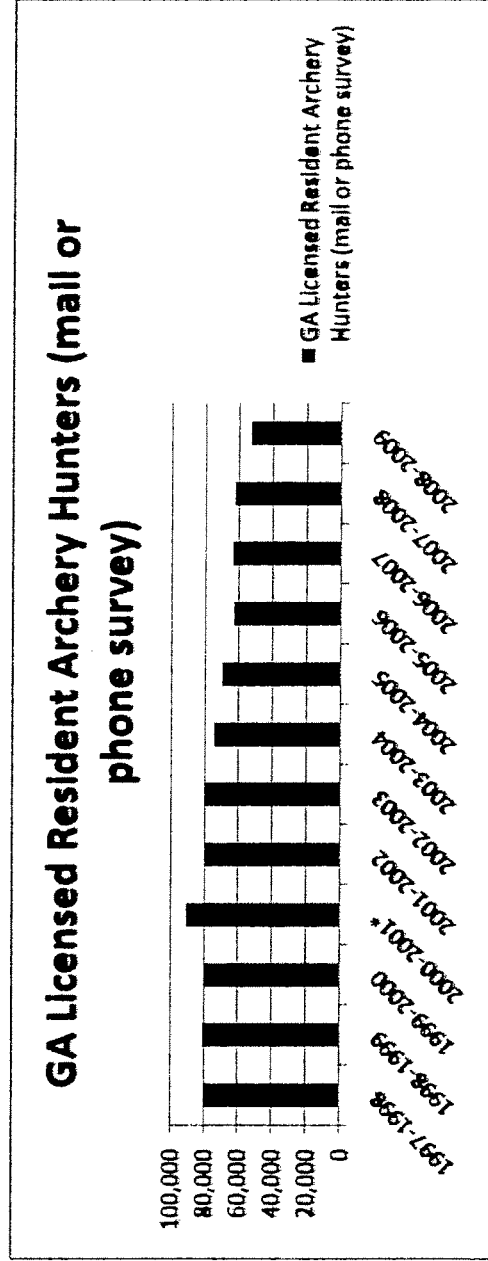
*** set up at AMO (Archery Manufacturers Organization) standard:
60 lbs. (hand drawn)
30 inch arrow, 4" vanes, 540 grains (18.0 gr/in) @ 241 feet per second velocity

*W.J. Rheingens, Exterior Ballistics of Bows & Arrows, Javascript Archery Ballistics Calculator V2.06

**Paul Penix - PSE Archery representative, PSE TAC 15 video & GunShowsReview.com, SHOT show PSE & Vitor

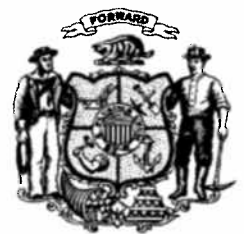
***Mathews Inc. AMO specifications, Drenalin

License Year	GA Licensed Resident Archery Hunters (mail or phone survey)
1997-1998	79,892
1998-1999	80,717
1999-2000	79,862
2000-2001*	90,675 * Survey methodology change from mail to telephone occurred in 2000-01
2001-2002	79,680
2002-2003	79,983 * Note, crossbows were added to the season in 2002-03
2003-2004	74,302
2004-2005	69,672
2005-2006	62,683
2006-2007	63,531
2007-2008	62,304
2008-2009	53,170





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Robert Bohmann, Chair
1105 Melvin Avenue
Racine, WI 53402
262-498-4605

Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair
12211 Marken Road
Kiel, WI 53042
920-693-8449

Lee Fahrney, Secretary
7860 McKenna Road
Hollandale, WI 53544
608-967-2208

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

The Honorable Jeffery Mursau
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Room 18 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Assembly Bill 384 relating to weapons that may be used to hunt certain animals and requirements for establishing open hunting seasons for those animals

Dear Chair Mursau and members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee:

On Wednesday, January 18, 2012, the Natural Resources Committee of the Wisconsin Assembly will be holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 384. While the Wisconsin Conservation Congress does not have a position on this bill in its entirety, the WCC does have positions on portions of this proposed legislation.

The Conservation Congress has a position on **Section 3- 29.014 (1m) (b)** *If the department establishes an open season for hunting deer, elk, small game, wild turkey, or bear with a bow and arrow but not with a firearm, the department may not open that season for hunting with a crossbow except by a person who has attained the age of 65 or by a person who is authorized to hunt with a crossbow by a permit issued under s. 29.171 (4) (a) or 29.193 (2).*

At the 2010 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual County Meetings, the Congress asked **Question 86 – Lower crossbow eligibility age to 55**: *Would you support a statutory change that would allow hunters 55 years of age or older to use a crossbow for hunting without the need to obtain medical proof of a disability?* This question passed in 42 counties, failed in 25 counties and tied in 5 counties.

At the 2011 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual County Meetings, the Department asked **Question 41 – Lower the age at which anyone can use a crossbow from 65 to 55**: *Do you favor lowering the age at which anyone can use a crossbow from 65 to 55?* This question passed in 55 counties, failed in 16 counties and tied in 1 county.

The Congress supports lowering the age requirement from 65 to 55 in **Section 3- 29.014 (1m) (b)**. On behalf of our constituents that attended and voted in favor of this change in 2010 and 2011, we respectfully request that you please consider making an amendment to reflect this.

In 2011, the Congress also asked: **Question 48- Legalize Crossbows for Archery Season**: *Do you support the legalization of crossbows statewide for deer hunting during Wisconsin's archery season for hunters who possess a valid archery license with no additional age or disability restrictions?* This question passed in 13 counties, failed in 58 counties and tied in 1 county. Based on the input received from constituents at our 2011 Spring Hearings, the Congress does not support full inclusion for the use of crossbows during the archery deer season.

The Congress also has a position on **Section 6- 29.173 (2) (a)** amending it to read: *A resident deer hunting license authorizes the hunting of deer with ~~firearms only~~ a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.* In 2008, the Congress asked **Question 46: Use of Archery Equipment with a Gun Deer License: Do you support legislation that would modify the Gun Deer License to allow the use of Archery Equipment during the regular firearm deer seasons?** This question passed in 64 counties and failed in 8 counties. In 2011, the Congress again asked **Question 49- Use of Archery Equipment with a Gun Deer License: Do you support legislation that would modify the regular gun deer license to allow the use of archery equipment when hunting under the authority of this license during the any firearm deer seasons?** This question passed in 42 counties and failed in 30 counties.

The Congress supports the use of archery equipment under the authority of a resident and non-resident deer hunting license. On behalf of our constituents that attended and voted in favor of this change in 2008 and 2011, we respectfully request that you support **Section 6- 29.173 (2) (a)** and **Section 15- 29.211 (2)** as written in AB-384.

Respectfully,

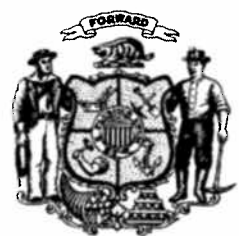


Rob Bohmann, Chair
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January 18, 2012

Chairman Mursau and members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. My name is Ralph R. Fritsch from Townsend and I am Chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation represents over 170 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry-related groups throughout the state of Wisconsin.

The Federation supports Assembly Bill 384 which allows the use of crossbows during hunting seasons in which firearms are allowed in Wisconsin. This bill increases the opportunity for hunting in the state without any adverse threat to the sustainability of wildlife populations and without causing any threat to public safety.

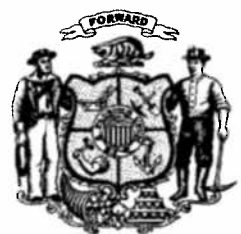
The Federation also requests that the bill's author and the Committee amend the bill to authorize anyone over the age of 55 to use crossbows to hunt during any hunting season in which archery equipment is authorized. Currently the age for crossbow use is 65. Lowering the age to 55 would recognize the reality that many hunters by the age 55 have through normal wear and tear have lost the capability to use standard archery equipment. Unfortunately we then lose these individuals to hunting. The state does see a significant drop off of archers between the ages of 55 to 65. As we are trying to recruit new hunters, we should be doing all we can to retain those hunters that we currently can. Lowering the age for use of crossbows to 55 would be a significant step in accomplishing this objective.

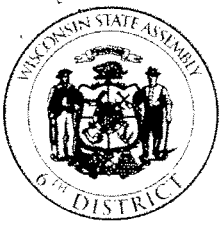
Chair Mursau and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Submitted by:
Ralph R. Fritsch, Chairman
Wildlife Committee
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





GARY TAUCHEN

State Representative • 6th Assembly District

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P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

DATE: January 18th, 2012
TO: Chairman Mursau and the Members of the Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Representative Gary Tauchen
RE: AB 384 Testimony

Good morning. I would like to thank Chairman Mursau and the members of the Natural Resources Committee for hearing Assembly Bill 384 today.

AB 384 expands the weapons that may be used under possession of a deer, elk, wild turkey, small game, and Class A bear hunting license. Under this bill, each of these licenses authorizes a person to hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The requirement that a person must be at least 65 years of age or disabled to hunt with a crossbow is eliminated, except within an archery season. Within an established firearm season, for example, the use of a bow and arrow, a crossbow, and an airgun will also be allowed, increasing the weapons available to Wisconsin hunters. Expanding weapons opportunities will benefit hunters and the hunting industry here in Wisconsin.

As an example, in 2010 Michigan passed a similar bill, which also included the use of crossbows in all seasons. That state experienced a 96,000 increase in crossbow hunting licenses within the first year. In turn, revenues from those licenses, weapons and equipment taxes, weapons and equipment purchases, and other spending at local businesses brought in an additional \$32 million dollars. The bottom line is that the bill significantly increased hunter participation and brought in additional revenue. Wisconsin has a tremendous sporting heritage, and AB 384 will have a similar impact here in our state.

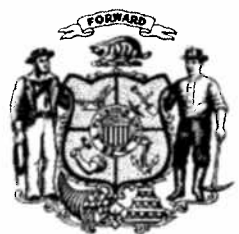
Hunter retention and recruitment is another critical area. The earlier hunters joins the sport, the more likely are to continue participating. Within Ohio, the expanded weapons opportunities have also allowed younger hunters to come into the game earlier. Increased retention also occurs as many hunters reach their mid-50s. They often return to hunting with a crossbow (in Ohio, for example) to keep participating in the sport as long as they can. All seasons and weapons opportunities help sustain the sport. Giving hunters in Wisconsin the opportunity of expanded weapons will sustain our historic hunting tradition and all of its positive impacts here within our state. Retention is recruitment.

There are two simple technical amendments that I have drafted at the suggestion of the DNR to improve AB 384. The first will fix an issue regarding persons under the age of 12 from hunting unsupervised. The second will align crossbow definitions with previous DNR rules. I appreciate the efforts of the DNR staff for bringing these suggestions to my attention. I ask the Committee to adopt both of these Amendments.

Again, my thanks to the Committee for hearing AB 384 today. Are there any questions?



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Dear Governor Walker:

In our Fish and Wildlife Plan 7/2007 6/2013 express' ideals based on the Public Trust Doctrine. It directs the state to manage the states resources for the public good, and not to manage resources for the exclusive good of one user group. You have managed your governorship with this principle. Please continue to be lead by this principle.

Re: AB 0384 weapons bill (a.k.a. the Greater or Lesser weapons bill) Apposed, unless amended

The crossbow question has again heated up and I hope you will be open to the concerns that the Wisconsin Crossbow Federations has with the bill as drafted by Representative Gary Tauchen. (R-6)

Simplify the archery rules

The pro-crossbow interests have long wanted more generous crossbow opportunity and yes, there is opportunity to use crossbows in this bill as written, but only during seasons where guns are allowed. Crossbows are not guns. What we don't want is a new definition stating that crossbows are not archery equipment and therefore not legal in the archery season. This is especially true since it is my understanding that you would like hunting regulations simplified not made more complex.

Here is the important section and definitions:

Section 1. 29.001 (17) of the statutes is created to read:

29.001 (17) "Bow," when used with reference to hunting, means a bow, drawn and held by and through the effort of the person releasing it, but does not include a crossbow.

Question : Does this eliminate the use of compound bows that use a string release device. These also aid the effort of the archer in holding and releasing the string at full draw.

Section 2. 29.001 (19m) of the statutes is created to read:

29.001 (19m) "Crossbow" means any device using a bow that, once drawn, is held solely by means other than the effort of the person firing it.

Question: Does this eliminate the use of compound bows with cams that aid in holding back the drawn compound bow. Cams are currently in use that reduce hold back by 99% as compared to crossbows at 100%.

Section 3. 29.014 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

29.014 (1m) (a) If the department establishes an open season for hunting deer, Elk, small game, wild turkey, or bear with a firearm, the season shall also be open for hunting that animal with a crossbow and a bow and arrow.

(b) If the department establishes an open season for hunting deer, elk, small

game, wild turkey, or bear with a bow and arrow but not with a firearm, the department may not open that season for hunting with a crossbow except by a person who has attained the age of 65 or by a person who is authorized to hunt with a crossbow by a permit issued under s. 29.171 (4) (a) or 29.193 (2).

Question : Does the 1% hold back and vertical alignment differences from compound bows establish a reasonable difference to make compound bows users a protected group and restrict crossbow useage. If it does, we ask on what basis. Current compound bows with 80 to 99% let off and trigger release devices are far from traditional finger held stick bows. They share more with the crossbow than traditional stick bows.

Clearly Rep. Tauchen wrote a bill to satisfy the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, and while it does not say "Greater or Lesser Weapons bill, that is what it is! One percent difference in hold back does not make the crossbow a greater weapon.

I should point out that Representative Tauchen has been most kind and attentive to our views, and I believe is very committed in his efforts to create an environment where all parties can find consensus. The most accepted consensus in other states has been: "Crossbows are a choice archery weapon and is most appropriate in the archery season".

THIS IS A BAD BILL AS WRITTEN, but the bill could be corrected by an amendment that would eliminate the greater or lesser language in the definitions parts 29.001, and 29.0014 (a) (b).

Solution: In its place crossbows should be defined as archery equipment legal for taking game during any archery season in which other 'traditional' and compound archery equipment is used.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

Question: Is there a compelling reason to use age discrimination, without a rational basis, to approve crossbow usage? What is the compelling statutory need for the State to set a specific age?

Scientific studies indicate that after age 21 there is a steady decrease in physical ability and strength. This decline increases dramatically at around age 39 and varies with individuals. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation voted to support lowering the age to 55 for hunters wishing to hunt with a crossbow without a medical exam.

Solution: Age restrictions or exemption language should be eliminated from state regulations.

MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS

Question: Does the medical exemption meet the "reasonable accommodation" standard for people with medical issues?

Does it impose a financial burden on those already burdened with medical costs?

The medical test for class A, B, and C disability permits discriminates against persons who have disabilities and falls below those approved under the Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Wisconsin law. This discrimination is significant enough to prevent these people from using and enjoying archery with the present crossbow restriction. The State should not be in the business of banning and burdening anyone with medical challenges, especially if they are willing to pay for their own crossbow and it costs the taxpayer nothing. Wisconsin spends thirty two thousand taxpayer dollars annually just to process crossbow exemption permits. The cost to handicapped applicants for medical tests averages one hundred and twenty dollars. If we estimate that half of the applicants actually have to pay for their test this would amount to over three hundred thousand dollars annually that handicapped people have to pay.

Solution: The state should eliminate all requirements for medical exams designed to exclude Wisconsin residents the opportunity to crossbow hunt.

Clarification: The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation is not pushing for inclusion of crossbows into the deer gun season. This is something the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association wants and seems to be part of their theory of a 'greater or lesser weapons season. Compound and stick bow hunters are now included in all hunting seasons, but other hunters are banned in the current archery season. We believe for simplicity and safety there should be two basic hunting seasons, archery and gun. Also for safety reasons, we don't think it is a good mix for archers to be in the more crowded gun deer season. We are also concerned about the range and rate of fire of guns, when stealthy and possibly hidden archers are near (even with hunter orange). Remember one of the four hunter safety rules is: **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND!** A gun hunter swinging on a running deer is unlikely to see a bow hunter partly hidden in a ground blind. For this and other reason many hunters (gun and bow) are beginning to push back against the WBH leadership's demands for more bows in the deer gun season.

Wisconsin wants to keep our hunters, not find reason to make it more difficult for them to enjoy our resources. In our Fish and Wildlife Plan 7/2007- 6/2013 there are several sections that express ideals based on Public Trust Doctrine. In other words, the resource should be managed for the public good, and not managed for the exclusive good of one user group The archery season, which runs about 100 days, or almost a third of the year is set aside for archers who prefer to use

so called traditional and compound archery equipment. We believe that just because an archer chooses to assume a personal challenge (to hunt with a bow v. gun, or a bow v. crossbow) this does not in it's self create an entitlement to the exclusive right to a 'good' offered by the state to any citizen who purchases a hunting license.

The Fiscal Estimate prepared by the DNR is correct but limited as the bill is written. Because of Act 21 the DNR cannot volunteer information that might be seen as promoting legislation. A legislator must request a fiscal estimate based on a proposed amendment. For example: "Allowing crossbows for everyone during the archery season," The DNR could provide you with estimates on: increase in archery participation, increased license sales, increase in Pittman Robertson Act distribution to the Wisconsin, increase in retail sales of crossbows and supportive equipment, sales tax increase, the value of in-hunter day participation, savings to the State by eliminating the expense of processing of handicapped permits, savings of lost of revenue to Wisconsin because hunters left Wisconsin to hunt in other states and the gain in out of state hunters because we would allow hunting with crossbows. You will be surprised by how much a simple change in the law allowing crossbows will mean to the economy of Wisconsin. (For more information contact: Thomas Van Haren, 608 266 2120)

The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation, American Crossbow Federation, and the United Foundation for Disabled Archers UFFDA has been left out of the discussions about crossbow use in Wisconsin. We represent a constituency just as vital as those who are members of the Wisconsin Bowhunters. Please see that we included , not excluded in the process.

Other groups who are adding input to this issue:

The NRA, and Safari Club International, both of who support crossbows as a legitimate weapon suitable for hunting. Both organizations oppose unnecessary regulations on weapons as a means to limit hunting or to limit the opportunity for the public to hunt.

The NRA with long experience in passing pro-gun legislation have stated that the ultimate goal should be full inclusion of crossbows into all hunting seasons, but they also feel that in light of current political conditions in Wisconsin, they are willing, at this time, to take less ambitious steps to reach that goal. The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation disagrees somewhat with the NRA position. The positive results of other states such as, Michigan demonstrate the benefits to its citizens and the financial gains to the states and its retailers. Michigan was able to make the jump to full inclusion of crossbows in the same type of political climate we have here in Wisconsin in one year, by dropping the 60% solution in favor of full inclusion. For more inside information contact Laura Scharich, at the Michigan Crossbow Federation.

Another group is the Archery Trade Association ATA, and individual archery manufactures. The ATA, on their web page, states that they support of crossbows use where legal. This has caused considerable consternation from Pope and Young, and state bow hunting organizations, including WBH because they don't think the ATA went far enough. i.e. they should have had a stronger position against crossbows. The ATA has been very careful in the wording of their statement, keeping in mind their membership includes companies who manufacture crossbows and companies who don't. (Contact person: Mr. Lee Zimmerman 330 495 1090

The crossbow debate is an asymmetrical type of dispute in which one side is more hostile than the other. Once the compound bow v. traditional bow debate was settled in the early 1970s with enactment of laws allowing compound bows, the whole problem resolved itself. We believe the same pattern will be seen once crossbows are legalized.

As you can see there are many interested parties in this debate whose approaches may be different, but all are working towards the same end.

(Note: In spite of charges made by those who are anti-crossbows, The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation and its officers have not accepted any financial support from any crossbow manufacturer or any other source other than by membership dues, and the personal contribution to the WCF by me and other board members. The sole purpose of the WCF is to support the safe use of crossbows by anyone wishing to do so and the elimination of discriminatory laws preventing anyone from the full enjoyment and use of recreational opportunities offered by the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation's web page is: wiconsincrossbow.com

The Wisconsin Crossbow Federation and its' officers pledge to provide input which is honest, relevant and accurate as possible. If anyone claiming to represent us is disrespectful, knowingly tells untruths, or misrepresents our views, please report them to me: John Cumming at 262 893 2700)

Thank you for your interest and please contact me is you have any questions or are having hearing on this subject.

Alan Schimelpfenig, Vice President
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262 385 1768 cell
262 377 9928 home



Hello, My name is Perry J. Schneeberg

I am here to voice my opinion on Bill 384, which defines the seasons certain types of weapons can or cannot be used.

I will be old enough to use a crossbow this hunting season in Wisconsin regardless of the outcome of this bill, I am here because I believe the bill as written is very wrong.

The bill clearly states that many types of weapons, bows, compound bows, crossbows can be used in almost all seasons. But it specifically excludes crossbows from the traditional Wisconsin bow deer season. My question is WHY!!

By Federal and States Law, compound bows and crossbows are considered archery equipment. Yet crossbows are being excluded from the archery deer season as we know it. Crossbows and compound bows are both taxed for the purpose of the Pittman-Robinson funding for wildlife management programs used by the states, and no discrimination is allowed. Keeping crossbows out of the archery season is discrimination as it applies to equal right of access and opportunity.

In the 23 states where crossbows have full inclusion during the deer seasons, and where studies have been done, not one state has recorded a negative effect in their deer herd, and no seasons had to be modified or reduced, where studied, hunter success rates have remained virtually unchanged versus before full inclusion of crossbow

Many hunters under the age of 65 would stay in the deer hunting community longer if allowed to use a crossbow during the traditional bow deer season instead of during the nine day rifle season when 250,000 people are in the woods with guns and weather is colder.

Wisconsin could gain approximately 32 million dollars per Rep Tauchen's letter by the retention of existing hunters and new hunters entering the hunting community, but that dollar amount would not materialize with crossbow hunters excluded from the traditional bow deer season unless they are 65 or older or handicapped.

If there is no age requirement of 65 or older during any other Wisconsin hunting season, why should there be one for a person to use a crossbow during the traditional bow deer season? That also stinks of discrimination also

Just think of how ridiculous this sounds, in order to use a crossbow during the Wisconsin archery deer season you have to be 65 years old, but during that same season, a 10 year old can use a compound bow!!!!!! Does this mean that person needs 50 plus a years of experience to use a crossbow but a compound is so easy a 10 year old can do it???????

Thank you for your time