



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton
To: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 328
Relating to: a uniform end date for certain open hunting and trapping seasons
Date: May 24, 2017

Chairman Kleefisch and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. The state of Wisconsin is well known for its strong hunting heritage. The Assembly and Senate each have a committee specifically dedicated to it, so we clearly appreciate it.

For many families in Wisconsin, getting together during the holidays is a time for participating in fun family activities like hunting. People take off work, school kids are off on winter break, and university students are finishing up their semesters. Unfortunately, some universities have exams right up to December 23rd, which means some students might not get home until Christmas Eve or later. Other people might not be able to take off work because of business policies that require working during the holidays, especially in retail. With extended family celebrations, close family gatherings, and New Year's, there may not be a lot of opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen to get outdoors before the season ends.

Currently, the seasons for hunting and trapping fisher, grey partridge, pheasant, and wild turkey all end on December 31st. However, late-season bow hunting ends on the Sunday nearest January 6th. This bill would establish that the open season for fisher, grey partridge, pheasant, wild turkey, and bow hunting for deer all end at the same time on the Sunday nearest January 6th.

This bill will make things less confusing by aligning all the hunt dates around the holidays, which will allow families and hunters to participate in the season for an extra week. This also gives more opportunities for mentored hunts, New Year's Day hunting, and a final weekend in January for hunters to get out there. This idea was supported by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and 71 counties voted in favor of aligning the dates during the 2017 DNR Spring Hearings.

Please consider recommending the passage of Assembly Bill 328. I am willing to answer any questions you might have. Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony today.

Serving the 23rd Senate District