



Statement of  
Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director  
CT Votes for Animals  
In Opposition to SB 245  
Joint Committee on the Environment  
March 1, 2019

Senate Co-Chair Cohen, House Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chairs Senator Kushner and Representative Gresko, Ranking Senator Miner and Ranking Representative Harding, Honorable Members of the Environment Committee.

CT Votes for Animals (CVA) is a grass roots animal advocacy organization representing 3,000 citizens across the State of Connecticut. CVA members care deeply that Connecticut provides a safe and humane environment for all its animals. CVA speaks up for animals as a reminder to the public that a compassionate world is good for all and one in which we should all want to live in.

CVA is pleased to support SB 245 An Act Prohibiting Hunting Along the Quinnipiac River In New Haven. The location of the proposed prohibition is in a densely populated section of New Haven. Public and private housing borders both sides of the river, there is a frequently utilized children's playground and a year-round conservation and recreational area – Quinnipiac Meadows Preserve. The Preserve is the pride of the community as it was recently improved, expanded its year-round nature talks, is home to over 100 species of wildlife and serves as a significant migration stop for Canada Geese, ducks and migratory birds.

Neighborhood residents have worked tirelessly over the years to end hunting along the river. With the help of the neighborhood's State and local elected officials, a one-year moratorium on hunting was put in place while DEEP conducted a full review of the issues especially the safety concerns. Although the report is not yet available, CVA hopes that DEEP will concur that densely populated areas are no place for hunters. Even with necessary precautions, you can never guard against accidental shootings and in densely populated areas, those accidents can turn tragic. Our urban centers deserve the peace and tranquility of the river and its corresponding wildlife.

CVA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present our position and urge the Environment Committee to favorably consider SB 245 to prohibit hunting along the Quinnipiac River.