



## NEW YORK SPORTSMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

4-H Shooting Sports ♦ Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation ♦ Conservation Fund Advisory Board ♦ Ducks Unlimited, Inc. ♦ National Wild Turkey Federation – New York Chapter ♦ New York Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers ♦ New York Council of Trout Unlimited ♦ New York Crossbow Coalition ♦ New York Deer and Elk Farmers Association ♦ New York Houndsmen Conservation Association ♦ New York State Conservation Council ♦ New York State Trappers Association ♦ Safari Club International – Adirondack-Catskill Chapter

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Jeremy Hurst  
*Big Game Unit Leader*  
*NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation*  
*Albany, New York*

Mr Hurst,

The New York Sportsman Advisory Council, NYSAC, comprised of NY State Sportsmen's Organizations, acts as the Advisory Council to the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus in Albany.

NYSAC's legislative priorities consist of a Universal Minimum Hunting Age of 12 years old to hunt any game, including big game and classifying crossbows as archery equipment, including them in all seasons and areas other archery equipment is permitted, as well as removing arbitrary width and draw weight restrictions on the equipment.

These two items can play an important part in the R3 movement here in NY. Including youth at younger ages is proven to help increase retention in the traditional outdoor sports, and crossbows plays an important role in recruiting new hunters, along with retaining and the reactivating hunters that can no longer draw or struggle to draw their vertical bows.

NY is the only State that does not permit youth to hunt big game with firearms until age 14, and with 28 states allowing crossbows to be used during their entire archery seasons, NYSAC requests these 2 proposals be moved from the appendix of the Draft Plan into the main proposal's being pursued by the DEC.

Respectively Submitted  
William Wilbur  
NYSAC Chairman