

Dear _____,

I am writing to you today regarding crossbow expansion within the archery season which is included in the NYS Budget Bill, A3008/S2508 and A238/S1721. I am asking for you to NOT support crossbow expansion as in A238/S1721 and to have that language removed from A3008/S2508 as well.

The modern crossbow is a far cry from its' medieval ancestor. The crossbow shares more similarities with a rifle than with a true bow. The crossbow uses a shoulder stock, trigger guard, trigger safety, trigger, telescopic sighting optics, is pre-cocked, pre-loaded, and can be fired from a variety of positions, such as prone, seated, off of shooting sticks or a shooting rail. A true bow must be hand held and hand drawn, not relying upon machinery to complete the task.

The advancements in technology are limitless and can be clearly seen with the latest group of crossbows currently available.

Ravin crossbows are sold under the advertising masthead of "Meet Your Next Rifle". The Ravin R500E can be cocked and uncocked using a battery powered system, shoots a bolt at 500 fps, and has a 3.6 axle to axle width when cocked. For comparison, 500 fps is almost 2 football fields in 1 second, and 3.6" is just about the width of your palm.

The Lancehead F1 uses a torsion drive system within a forward and rear drum, and is only 3.9" wide.

The Excalibur Twin Strike has 2 sets of limbs, and two triggers which allows it to be pre-cocked and pre-loaded with 2 bolts, and the capacity to take 2 shots within "milliseconds", according to the manufacturer.

The PSE TAC-15 (Tactical Assault Crossbow) is built upon the lower receiver of an AR-15 rifle, and boasts of 1” groups at 100 yards.

Bowhunters practice diligently throughout the year in order to maintain the level of proficiency needed to make a clean, ethical kill, within 15 yards, the average distance according to the NBEF (National Bowhunter Education Foundation). Crossbows can be shot right out of the box with little to no practice, and at distances that far exceed the national average mentioned above.

The expansion of crossbows is driven solely for monetary gain. The manufacturers entice firearms hunters to become a “2 season hunter” without safety or practice by purchasing a crossbow and hunting during the archery season. Game agencies want to sell more licenses, and they seek to capitalize on that enticement, all at the expense of the sanctity and tradition of the archery season.

The crossbow is a superior implement and its’ usage should NOT be expanded. To do so would compromise the integrity of the archery season.

In closing, please seek to have the crossbow expansion language stricken from A3008/S2508, and do not support A238/S1721.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,