



May 4, 2021

To: Mr. Patrick Ryan, County Executive

The League of Humane Voters/NY has previously sent our request that Ulster County NOT opt in to a potentially dangerous pilot program being promoted by the Bureau of Wildlife within the DEC. The pilot program would allow 12-year-olds to hunt deer with firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts.

It should be known that 12-year-olds can now use modified AK-47 and AR-15 rifles for hunting in NYS.

As all the boroughs of NYC, and the counties of Suffolk, Nassau, and Westchester are exempt from opting in to this pilot program, the likely place for the 12-year-olds, accompanied by hunters who need be 21 years or older, will be to hunt in nearby counties, which will drive your hunter population up.

Obviously, the increased density of hunters goes along with the potential for increased hunting accidents, deer-car collisions caused by fleeing deer, lead in the environment, and more hunting pressure on the wildlife.

As the DEC has notified all hunting and firearms clubs to contact their lawmakers, the general public has been left out. For the sake of transparency and to protect your residents, this dangerous opt in pilot program should be well-publicized before a decision is made. Additionally, the county is attractive to visitors who come to visit, climb, hike, see the foliage, and ski, so tourism could be affected.

We urge Ulster County to protect its residents and visitors by not opting in to this reckless pilot program that has potentially dire consequences.

**Kindly share this appeal with the Ulster County Legislature.**

Sincerely,

Anne Muller (Resident of Ulster County)

LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS®/NY

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[WWW.LOHVNY.ORG](http://WWW.LOHVNY.ORG)

*The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.*