

December 15, 2000

To: Lansing State Journal

Since the Legislature did not pass the bill allowing dove hunting, I would like to withdraw the letter to the editor I e-mailed to you December 12. This was what it said:

The trouble with today's youth is that they don't have enough things to shoot at. In an effort to get young people away from TV and video games and into the woods with guns, Michigan's legislature has passed a bill designating the mourning dove as a game animal. Since doves are plentiful and easy to spot, young people - with their notoriously short attention spans - are more likely to stick with it and eventually get hooked on hunting, which is why doves are referred to as a "gateway" game animal. Sport hunters, who comprise about 9% of Michigan residents, are also scrounging for new recruits among the elderly and the disabled and the inept, who will be able to shoot the hapless doves from a stationary position. Passage of the bill is seen as a victory for freedom and individual rights. Doves and hikers might disagree.

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