

SENATE BILL 86 – SUPPORT

26 February 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

As a Marylander residing in Prince Georges County and a Service-disabled combat Veteran, I want to offer my **strong support** for Senator Simonaire's **Senate Bill 86 related to hunting and fishing rights**.

I believe that **Senate Bill 86** advances the goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and to suicide prevention measures, which recreational therapy programs involving hunting and fishing have been conclusively proven to. In fact, the Maryland Recreational Licenses Donation Program enables Veterans to engage in these very activities!

Significantly, this legislation notes that hunting and fishing are valued parts of our cultural and social heritage, play an important role in our economy, and reflect rights that should be enshrined in law. It is worth noting too that these activities also provide substantial funding for Maryland conservation efforts.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 86.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. T. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian T. Smith