



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 86 - Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 86. The Department agrees that fishing and hunting are a valuable part of the State's cultural and social heritage that provides unique recreational benefits to the citizens of Maryland. The Department also agrees that fishing and hunting play an important part in the State's economy. Revenues generated by the sale of fishing and hunting licenses directly support the Department's fish and wildlife conservation and protection efforts.

In 2019, there were 240,000 licensed resident anglers and 89,000 licensed resident hunters in Maryland. The most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation estimated that anglers and hunters in Maryland spent nearly \$800 million. Recreational fishing accounted for an estimated \$535,232,000, while hunting accounted for \$264,119,000. Much of these expenditures were on food, lodging, equipment and transportation.

This bill would establish the intent of the General Assembly that residents of Maryland have a right to fish and hunt subject to certain regulations.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding Senate Bill 86.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services