MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS



PO Box 10411 Baltimore, MD 21209

March 10, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. Re: Prohibition on Sale of Wildlife – Local Venison Donation Programs – Application – SB 798- Oppose.

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, members of the Education, Health and Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals here in opposition to Prohibition on Sale of Wildlife – Local Venison Donation Programs – Application – SB 798.

While trying to address one problem, deer overpopulation, this bill creates others. It would commercialize deer hunting, something that is currently not allowed under Maryland Law as deer are considered a public resource. Harvesting deer as a commodity is not considered an acceptable form of wildlife management.

The problem of deer overpopulation cannot be conflated with the COVID crisis. It deserves its own task force to address this issue, which was occurring long before the pandemic.

We would request an unfavorable report for SB 798 by this committee.