

March 9, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environment Committee

Re: Support of SB 427 - Baltimore County - Hunting - Nongame Bird and Mammals

From: Baltimore County Farm Bureau

Only in Baltimore County is it required for a farmer to purchase a hunting license to hunt and trap groundhogs. I submit this written testimony in support of SB 427 on behalf of the over 1,100 members of Baltimore County Farm Bureau. Throughout the state of Maryland groundhogs, the holes they create and the mounds of soil they excavate cause injury to livestock, damage to crops, farm equipment and structures. In short, we are required annually to pay for a license to control a nuisance that is costing us money. This bill, if passed, will correct the superfluous requirements of only those who farm in Baltimore County while still requiring a Certificate of Competency in Firearms and Hunting Safety and that Safety Zone Regulations are met as outlined in the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping. For additional information I refer you to pages 8, 12, 14, and 54 of the printed guide. The link is below. I am able to discuss and provide more proof to this point upon request.

Baltimore County farmers and landowners are simply asking for the same rights as every other farmer and landowner in the state!

I ask on you to vote favorably for SB 427.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU & BALTIMORE COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUPPORT SB 427 AND ENCOURAGES THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE FAVORABLY.

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https://www.eregulations.com/assets/docs/guides/21MDHD_VLR.pdf