Support of SB 388 - Charles County - Natural Resou

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: FAV

Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 9, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB 388 – Charles County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting

On behalf of our member families in Charles County, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 388, legislation that would add Charles County to a list of counties that allow a person to hunt any game bird or game mammal on a Sunday during the open season for that game bird or game mammal. Current counties that allow this are: Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington.

Crop damage created by deer is nearly $50 per acre today. These numbers are even higher in Southern Maryland. DNR reports show that more than 10% of the deer harvested this hunting season were done on Sundays. Allowing Charles County to have these additional Sunday hunting dates will allow the hunters to help address the overpopulation of deer in Charles County.

MDFB Policy: We support statewide Sunday hunting on private lands.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 388 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations
For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

SB 388_mgoldstein_fav 2022.pdf
Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein
Position: FAV

Secular Maryland seculermaryland@tutanota.com

March 09, 2022

HB 388 - SUPPORT

Charles County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice -Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Maryland bans, or otherwise limits, the sale of automobiles and other vehicles (Business Regulation Code Ann. §18–101), and the sale of alcohol (Alcoholic Beverages Code Ann. §11–102), on Sundays. Financial institutions must be closed on Sunday (Financial Institutions Code Ann. §5–704). Maryland is one of eleven states where hunting is still banned or otherwise restricted on Sunday (Natural Resources Code Ann. §10-410). Counties (and Baltimore) have requested, and usually obtained, a variety of exemptions from some of these Sunday activity restrictions from the General Assembly. Secular Maryland supports these requests to reduce or eliminate Sunday activity restrictions. We disagree with the state level Sunday activity restrictions.

Sunday is a special day of the week for many Christians. For other citizens the day of rest and worship may be Friday or Saturday, and for some citizens there is no god to worship or no fixed day of rest each week. Maryland law can be, and should be, more accommodating to this diversity of belief among its citizens. Legally banning business and leisure activity on Sundays favors a majority religious practice. Favoring a majority religious practice is not a proper goal of the laws. To the fullest extent feasible, our laws should accommodate minority religious practices along with non-religious and anti-religion beliefs.

The decisions regarding which day to hunt, to buy or sell alcohol, to buy or sell vehicles, to initiate and process financial transactions, etc., are best left to the citizens. State lawmakers can require one day off every week without specifying a particular day of the week by delegating that decision to the affected businesses. Hunting restrictions to accommodate horseback riding, hiking, and the like during the hunting season can be defined for particular hours throughout the week or rotated to different days for each week of the month instead of being on every Sunday.

Respectfully,

Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD

JacksonSB388Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Michael Jackson
Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Pensions
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 388

CHARLES COUNTY – NATURAL RESOURCES – SUNDAY HUNTING

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARCH 9, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 388 is a very straightforward bill that adds Charles County to the list of counties that allows Sunday hunting for game birds and game mammals.

This legislation is a direct effort to help better manage the game population and to lessen their encroachment into residential neighborhoods and onto local roadways in Charles County. These simple modifications would be an important way to quell these issues and to reduce the dangerous situations that result from game bird and game animal overpopulation.

Existing Sunday hunting laws in Charles County are a significant restriction on the ability to properly manage local game animal herds, and this legislation would allow the county a better means of resolving the difficulties that it currently faces.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 388.

SB388.Letter of Support. Final.pdf
Uploaded by: Reuben Collins
Position: FAV

Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Bobby Rucci, *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

March 7, 2022

Bill: SB 388 Charles County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Members:

It is our sincere pleasure to support passage of SB 388 Charles County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting.

SB 388 will add Charles County to a list of several other counties that allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons. We anticipate that hunters will be enthusiastic to take advantage of the extended opportunities to safely enjoy their sport on Sundays in Charles County.

We encourage a favorable committee report on SB 388. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our full support.

Sincerely,

County Commissioners of Charles County
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation

200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, Maryland 20646 • 301-645-0550 • 301-870-3000
Toll Free: 1-877-807-8790 • Fax: 301-645-0560 • E-Mail: Commissioner@CharlesCountyMD.gov
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written testimony against SB 388 CHARLES COUNTY Su

Uploaded by: Jacquie cowan

Position: UNF

Riding to a Different Beat-

1218 Sunrise Beach Rd * Crownsville, Md. 21032
Contact: Jacquie Cowan 410-923-6157 * jacquiecowan@comcast.net

All breeds, gaits, riding styles and experience are welcome

Reference: **Charles County Sunday Hunting SB 388** to allow Hunting of all species during all seasons on all Sundays of the year

To: The Senate Committee on Environment, Health and Education

CC: Charles County Delegation

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, submitted Tuesday March 8, 2022

I am writing to you on behalf of our 300+ family state-wide memberships. We are all trail riders, and we ride throughout Maryland, including Charles County. I am a gaited horsemanship instructor; and also teach trail etiquette, trail safety and trail horsemanship. Trail riding is a skill to be developed, and a good trail horse is a well trained animal. I am retired from 15 years with TROTSAR, Mounted (human) Search and Rescue (on horseback), with whom I was an evaluator and certified search technician

Sunday Hunting was first introduced in the 1990's when the deer population was so great it needed strong management to reduce the herds.. That is no longer the case as the numbers have dropped and is being managed so not to get too low. The hunting world is now looking to expand their weekend opportunities as recreational. This has been a long standing battle between the 3% or less hunting population and the rest of Marylanders who wish to enjoy our beautiful Maryland outdoors. This is not an anti-hunting campaign; it has always been about equitable, shared safe use of the woods, trails and fields by all. Non-horse property owners also call for one quiet day of the weekend to enjoy their own backyards without hunting around them.

Those in favor of SB 388 say they need more time on weekends to hunt because they work, plus have family and community obligations. Well, so do the majority of other Marylanders. Our Club members and other trail riders also work, so the weekend is when they can spend quality time with their horses and families. Over the years, our Club along with other trail groups, scheduled their organized trail rides during traditional hunting seasons on Sunday to avoid any conflict. As the number of Sundays to be hunted has increased with the passage of more bills, that has become more difficult to do.

Horse Boarding facilities thrive on safe access to trails around and from their facility for their clientele. Not every horse rider owns a trailer, so they do not have the option to take their horse away from home or their boarding facility to ride "safe" public lands. Many public parks are not fully safe because many of the trails run adjacent to or across private property fields and easements that can be hunted.

I recently shared my experiences with disrespectful hunters who endangered our lives upon request from the House Committee on Environment and Transportation:

1- My neighbor's bedroom window was shattered by a poacher hunting at night in our hayfield adjacent to our houses, my horse pasture and barn. The trespasser ran/drove away before anyone could catch him.

2- A group from the Chesapeake Club were fired on purposely while riding on the C&O Canal Towpath. The hunters were in a private field across the road from the towpath. We alerted them to our approach, they stopped firing momentarily, and then fired over our heads into the National Park as we rode abreast of them. I called the local police to report and gain us safe pas sage, but no one responded.

3- The first mission my Search and Rescue Team was on after I became an active member was to locate a hunter who had not arrived back home. He was found passed out at the bottom of a tree surrounded by beer cans because he had neglected to se cure himself in his tree stand.

—- continued —-

The Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club invites enthusiasts of all breeds and riding disciplines to join in our fun. Membership benefits include Newsletters with Classifieds * Free Monthly Trail Rides * Friendly Help * Parties * Camping * Clinics * Parades * Demonstrations * Good Friends * and whatever our members want to plan to do. Membership is required for most Club events, and runs for a full year from the time you join.

Proud supporting member of Maryland Horse Council (MHC) and Friends of the Sound Horse (FOSH)

There are so many more stories to be told of similar instances and even horses injured and killed while grazing in their own fields. Those in favor of the bill may argue that is not true and there is a lack of documented reports. The discrepancy exists because many of these occurrences are not reported, or in my case, not recorded. Or they are reported to local police departments because they occurred on private property, backyards, farm fields, and horse pastures.

The fear is not just about being shot. It is about these run-ins with hunters. Besides our own personal discomfort, the horse is a flight animal. So when they are frightened, their natural instinct is to run, which further endangers the rider or handler. Whether the fear is real or perceived, it does keep folks from venturing out and enjoying their past-times. Would you want to take your grandchildren for a walk in the woods if there might be hunting going on — with this bill and the current mish-mash of possible Sundays to be hunted across the State, you might not even know it until it is too late!

Safe, reliable trail horses are not just born. Like any athlete, it takes aptitude, conditioning and years of training on the trail. Rider skills are developed as well through hours of practice on the trail. Competitive challenges like endurance riding require hours every week to develop and maintain the horse and rider's competitive edge. With this bill allowing hunting on all 365 days of the year, how will we be able to develop our safe trail horses and sensible trail riders.

Unfortunately, due to covid and health concerns, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) and its sponsors will not be holding our annual Maryland Horse Legislative Day again this year in Annapolis. In lieu of that, I believe you have all received a video from the MHIB depicting the richness of Maryland's equine community and its $2.1 billion impact on our State's economy. In case you missed it, here is the link Maryland Horse Industry Day 2022 - YouTube

I suspect many of you have not had the opportunity to take a trail ride on horseback. Here is another link so you can ride along with a few of my Chesapeake friends to experience the peace and tranquility that we wish so desperately to protect: https://youtu.be/Q3GYMy_mnAY

SB 388 proposes to make all Sundays of the year open to hunting by including all species and seasons. This means all seven days of the week, 52 weeks and all 365 days of the year can be hunted. If you allow this to go through, when can the rest of us enjoy our Maryland Outdoors (or even our own backyard)?

Please, vote no for SB 388 and save Sundays for the 97% of Maryland's population who do not have hunting licenses. I take my request a step further, please consider all the testimonies opposing hunting on Sundays when other bills come before you to expand these hunting days and opportunities for such a small percentage of Maryland citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter of equitable, shared use of our great Maryland outdoors. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacquie Cowan
410-215-4979 / jacquiecowan@comcast.net
Founding Member and Editor, Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club
Anne Arundel County Coordinator, Trail Riders of Today (TROT)
Association Representative, The Maryland Horse Council
Event Manager, Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer for the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
Member At Large , League of Maryland Horsemen

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Proud supporting member of Maryland Horse Council (MHC) and Friends of the Sound Horse (FOSH)

hunting accident report 2007-2021.pages.pdf

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

Excepts from 15 years of DNR's Annual Hunting Accident Reports

https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/pages/hunting-incident-reports.aspx

2021

—- A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No charges were filed against the shooter.

2020

--- A Frederick County resident observed damage to the exterior of their residence, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. While investigating officers located no hunting activity in the area, the incident did occur during the end of spring turkey season. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County resident observed damage to their vehicle's windshield, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting and there were reports of numerous shots leading up to the incident. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

—- A Kent County waterfowl hunter, returning from a hunt, observed damage to their parked vehicle's tailgate, which consisted of a rifle round lodged into the plastic molding of said tailgate. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

—- A 17 year-old Wicomico County Waterfowl Hunter was underway in a vessel with other hunters when they were struck with shotgun pellets. Investigation revealed that other members of the victim's hunting party were on shore and approximately 50-60 yards away when a 20 year-old fired a shot towards the victim's vessel in an alleged attempt to scare him and his hunting party. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries. Natural resources / criminal charges were filed against the shooter in this incident.

—- A 14 year-old Somerset County Turkey Hunter (Firearms - Junior Hunt Days) was on foot and stalking turkeys with other juvenile hunters and under adult supervision. As the juveniles were walking 50-70 yards apart, under thick tree cover and out of sight from one another, a 14-year old shooter observed a turkey and fired their shotgun twice at said game. As a result, shotgun pellets ultimately struck the victim. The shooter was not aware that the victim was in the background. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

2019

---- A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing

their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

--- An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

---- A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage.

2018

No relevant reports

2017

--- A 26 year old Talbot County deer hunter (firearms season) shot at two deer with 12 gauge shotgun slugs. The first deer was struck and ran 40 yards before collapsing, the second deer was shot at but the first slug went over its back, the second shot dropped the deer in the location where it was standing. Apparently the slug that missed struck an occupied residence just to one side of the front door. Upon a 911 call a sheriff's department deputy had searched and located the lone hunter. After an investigation by NRP the hunter was charged with negligent hunting and discharging a firearm within the safety zone. Property damage only

--- An unknown Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) sent a 7mm projectile through the side of a residence, through the bedroom wall, through a wooden dresser, then through a closet wall before coming to rest in a pile of towels in the closet. Two people were in the bedroom at the time but neither was injured. A search of nearby farms was unsuccessful in locating any hunter(s). Property damage only

--- A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (late firearms season) took two shots at a deer with a 30/30 rifle toward the direction of a neighboring farm. One of the shots (both of which missed the deer) struck a dining room window of the adjacent residence and stopped, being found on the windowsill. During the investigation it was determined that the round that struck the window had ricocheted off of the ground. The distance from the shooter to the house was 398 yards.

(DNR's on-line annual report for 2017 is identical to DNR'S 2016's report – the 2016 appears to be missing)

2015

--- A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey. Non-Fatal

2014

--- A 50 year old Carroll County Fox Hunter sent a 6mm rifle round through a patio glass door. The round went through a vinyl garden hose and a plastic lawn chair before going through the door and striking a kitchen chair. The homeowner was the only occupant in the residence at the time and they were in bed sleeping.

--- A 52 year old Kent County Turkey Hunter (Spring Season) took two shots at a gobbler out in an open field. The second shot was at the bird while in flight. One pellet struck the storm door of an adjacent house causing the glass to shatter. The homeowner was present in the home at the time.

2013

--- A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit

--- A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles.

--- A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone ---discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandler in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

--- A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away. Property Damage Only

--- A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game)

2012

--- A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

--- A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home-owner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation.

2011

--- A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

--- A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass.

--- A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

--- A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys 40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodged in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a redmark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

2010

--- During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that

day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

--- A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.

--- A 53 year old Howard County deer hunter was shot by his 36 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a standing deer with a .12 gauge slug in an open field at approximately 243 yards. The bullet missed the deer, striking the victim sitting in a wooden ground blind at the opposite end of the field. The victim received injuries to his right arm and hand. Non Fatal. Charges pending an investigation

--- A 46 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunting was shot by his 25 year old hunting companion. With both subjects participating in a deer drive, the shooter shot at a running deer twice with a .20 gauge shotgun slug. A slug traveled 70 yards, striking the victim positioned at the opposite end of the field in the left leg. Non Fatal. Negligent Hunting charges pending.

—- A 55 year old Dorchester County rabbit hunter was shot by his 55 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a running rabbit with a .20 gauge shotgun in a thicket. The shot pellets traveled approximately 30 to 40 feet through the thicket striking the victim. The victim received injuries to the right side of his head, neck, eye, arm and left

—- A Frederick County garage window was struck by a bullet from an unknown source. An investigation could not recover the projectile nor related evidence. This incident occurred during the firearm's deer season.

2009

--- A 57 year-old goose hunter in Kent County was shot by another hunter while attempting to retrieve a wounded goose. The victim received a minor wound to the face from a shotgun pellet which deflected off the water striking the victim.

--- A window was broken at an occupied daycare facility from a slug fired by a shotgun in Howard County. Several hunters were found in the area and interviewed by several police agencies. Negligent hunting charges were filed, but the States Attorney elected not to prosecute due to insufficient evidence.

--- A window in a house was struck and broken by a sabot round fired by a deer hunter in Talbot County. The investigation found that in this case , the hunter was not negligent and charges were not filed.

--- While checking vacant buildings, several Frederick County Sheriff Deputy vehicles were struck by shot gun pellets causing minor damage. Several individuals who were hunting quail in the area were located and charges were filed by the States Attorney's office for Reckless Endangerment.

—- A 69 year-old deer hunter in Dorchester County found himself in the middle of a deer drive on a wildlife refuge. After hearing several shots the hunter realized that his shotgun had been struck on the barrel and magazine by lead shot. The shooter was never found or located.

2008

—- A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

—- A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

—- A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

2007

—- A 51 year-old Caroline County quail hunter shot his hunting partner when a quail flew between them. The victim received 4 pellets to his upper body.

—-A 54 year-old Talbot County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them and the shooter shot at the deer. The shooter hit the deer and shrapnel from the slug hit the victim in the hand causing minor injuries.

—- A 59 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them. The victim was below field level, climbing a hill out of site of the shooter. He received neck injuries.

—- A 38 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the shoulder by his 16 year-old hunting partner when the victim was moving through bushes and mistaken for game. Victim was not wearing fluorescent orange.

—- A 64 year-old Charles County Turkey hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the victim started to retrieve a turkey and was mistaken for another turkey by the shooter. Victim received 4 pellet wounds to various parts of the body.

INCIDENTS -- NOT REPORTED IN DNR ACCIDENT REPORTS (2016 to present)– that were recorded in other news sources:

--- MD: Woman attempting to shoot groundhog accidentally hits man fishing at park

May 28, 2019

The Maryland Natural Resource Police are investigating an incident of a bullet that grazed a man in the shoulder on Sunday afternoon.

According to police, a 61-year-old woman was shooting a groundhog in her backyard, which borders the Smithsburg Lions Community Park.

The woman missed and the bullet ricocheted across the water and struck a 28-year-old man who was fishing.

Officials said there doesn't seem to be any issues with limitation, however the shooter is responsible for anything in background, like in this case, the park….

--- Fatality : Maryland Natural Resources police were investigating a fatal hunting accident in Frederick County on Saturday, the opening day of deer season for firearms.
Police said the rifle of a first-time hunter from Altadena, Calif., was accidentally discharged while he was deer hunting on private property on Eylers Valley Flint Road near Thurmont.
Police identified the victim as Vincent Cavallo, 32.

Cavallo and his uncle were hunting in separate areas of the property when the uncle heard a gunshot. He went to check on his nephew and found him dead, DNR police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said. Police were called to the scene at 9:24 a.m.

Police said the victim is believed to have slipped or dropped the gun and it discharged, hitting him in the head. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Natural Resources police were assisted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department in the investigation.
lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com

--- Author: Scott Broom Published: 6:07 PM EDT October 24, 2016

The mystery is still not solved after an 87-year old man was apparently struck (ed. note: in the head) by a shotgun pellet or bullet fragment while walking on his property in rural Montgomery County Saturday.Authorities suspect a hunting accident, but they don't know who fired the shot or from where. Residents and hunters say they are deeply concerned by the incident. The victim's property is on the boundary of the Patuxent River State Park where hunting with firearms is permitted. Hunters may not fire guns within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling without a residents' permission, even if the hunter is on another property or public land nearby. Maryland averages 2-3 hunting accidents involving firearms annually. The victim is almost always a hunter.

NOTE: see more of this episode at:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wusa9.com/amp/article/news/local/mystery-surrounds-shooting-of-elderly-md-man-walking-home/65-340868641

--- Fatality: Oct 11, 2015 - WASHINGTON — A *75*-year-old huntsman was fatally *shot during* a hunting trip Saturday *in* Queen Anne's County, ... *Marvin Bowen Coppage*, a resident of *Henderson*, was hired to lead a guided *pheasant and chukar* hunt.

--- 2014 A mountain biker was peppered by bird shot while riding his bike in the Tuckahoe State Park on Maryland's Eastern (related by Tuckahoe park staff) knowledge)

Citizen report:
Date: March 15, 2019 at 9:15:38 AM EDT

To: <mwc.dnr@maryland.gov>, <animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov>, <hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Hunting Violation in Western Howard County

Hello,

I want to report a hunting violation that I encountered yesterday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Woodbine parcel of the Patuxent State Park.

I was in the park on horseback and one or two people began shooting firearms near the trail head that is immediately north of the farm at 4505 Jennings Chapel Road.

I hollered several times so that they could hear that I was there and stop shooting long enough for me to get out of the park. They were shooting between me and the closest way out of the park so my way was totally blocked.

They did not stop shooting even as I hollered and eventually my very sane and experienced horse bolted to try to get away from the noise, which was echoing everywhere.

Luckily I am a strong rider and I did not have a mishap but my horse was badly frightened, as was I, frankly. It was mainly luck that we did not run into a tree or barbed wire or worse.

Once I finally got to the trail head – after picking my way along as close to the edge of the park as I possibly could on the theory they would not fire towards residences – I saw their vehicles and got their license plates. They were both Maryland vehicles, on was 5CC8856 and the other was 5C74853.

I have attached photographs of the vehicles. I also have a photograph of my riding attire yesterday, which included a safety orange saddle pad and a reflective yellow jacket, which I can provide if necessary.

I have been riding in this part of the park for over 15 years and every time I have encountered hunters we have been courteous to one another and respectful of each other's sport and mindful of each other's safety. These people were obviously an exception.

I am happy to discuss further by telephone if necessary.

testimony - Sunday hunting - yearround - Charles 2

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 606 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 388 - Charles County - Sunday Hunting:
OPPOSE

- **A majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting.** An independent statewide poll conducted by Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting. Even DNR's own 2018 commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded.[1]

- You may have heard that this bill does not create year round Sunday hunting; that it's really just about deer and turkey. That is incorrect. ***If the goal was to expand Sunday hunting just for deer and Spring turkey, the bill could have adopted the language of Sections 10-410(a)(2) and (a)(6), which specifically govern deer seasons and turkey seasons, respectively. But it does not. It deletes all relevant sections of the statute, except Section 10-410(a)(1), which by its own terms is ALL GAME BIRDS AND MAMMALS.*** Because there is always an open season on at least one game bird or mammal at all times throughout the year, **this bill would allow hunting throughout the state on every Sunday of the year.** For example, crow season is 8/15 - 3/15; the spring turkey season is 4/18 - 5/23. And the coyote, nutria and groundhog seasons are year round. Just because it may be that currently the majority of hunters hunt deer and turkey does not change the ***fact*** that this bill, if enacted, would allow Sunday hunting for all game birds and mammals into the future, when the interests of hunters in additional or different kinds of prey might increase. The hunting accident report we submitted with this testimony contains reports of accidental shootings during hunting of groundhogs, etc.

- **This bill would infringe on the rights of the general public to enjoy outdoor recreation, the importance of which has received increased attention, including the State Park Investment Commission, a new Office of Outdoor Recreation in DNR, and the introduction of SB 541, the Great Maryland Outdoors Act. 78% of the Gonzales poll respondents said they would decide to alter their recreational plans to avoid hunters. In a Maryland Horse Council 2016 poll, 85% of respondents said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.**

[1] https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf

- **Since the advent of the pandemic, widespread use of outdoor recreation and natural resources by the general public has only increased.** For example, attendance at Maryland State Parks in 2020 increased 45% over 2019, which was also a record year.[2] Demand remained strong through 2021. **Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, including the distinctions between private and public lands. Now is not the time to increase general public exposure to possible hunting risks, or to further deter the public from outdoor recreation. We have separately submitted with this testimony a report of hunting incidents from 2007 - 2021, complied from DNR's own data.**

- **The Maryland horse industry represents $2.1 billion in economic impact**; 28,000 jobs; $1 billion in annual spending by participants; $78 million in tax revenue. There are over 100,000 horses in Maryland (more per square mile than any state in the Union), and 51.8% of Maryland households contain horse enthusiasts.[3] There are horses in every county in the state.[4] The majority of Maryland riders are trail riders.[5]

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes breed, interest and discipline associations, plus horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses and race tracks, to the owners of international level competition horses, local sport horses, trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. The owner of Pimlico, Laurel and Rosecroft racetracks is a member, as are vets, tack stores, and other farms, businesses and enthusiasts throughout the state. Every Maryland county, without exception, is home to hundreds to thousands of horses. (See footnote 3) There are more horse per square mile in Maryland than in any state in the Union. (See attached fact sheet.)

The horse industry in Maryland is a large, engaged and thriving constituency, and a strong economic engine: 28,000 direct equine related jobs; 16,000 properties occupying over 705,000 acres (almost 10% of Maryland's total land area, and over 25% of Maryland's agricultural land) The industry represents $2.1 billion in annual economic impact, generating $78 million in annual tax revenue. Horse industry participants spend $1 billion dollars annually (compare that to the $260 million annual figure for hunters cited in the Fiscal and Policy note). Thus, legislative actions that affect the equine industry have a broad economic effect.

POSITION
The Horse Council opposes SB 388.

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[2] https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/02/04/lt-governor-boyd-k-rutherford-maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announce-45-percent-increase-in-maryland-state-parks-attendance-in-2020/

[3] See attached fact sheet.

[4] According to the 2010 Maryland Equine Census (current numbers are likely about 25% higher, based on current total statewide population and a pandemic-driven boom in horse ownership): Allegany 350; Baltimore 8950; Carroll 6050; Frederick 7850; Garrett 1500; Harford 6200; Howard 4350; Montgomery 7900; Washington 3750; Anne Arundel 4500; Calvert 1350; Charles 1750; Prince George's 7100; Saint Mary's 2300; Caroline 1300; Cecil 6200; Kent 1200; Queen Anne's 1700; Talbot 1500; Dorchester 350; Somerset 270; Wicomico 1800; Worcester 880

[5] http://equiery.com/trail-riding-tops-reader-survey/

BACKGROUND

For over 20 years, the Maryland Horse Council has worked to ensure fair use of shared natural resources during hunting season, by seeking to preserve Sundays as the one day of the week when children and adults who are hikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, trail riders and other outdoor enthusiasts could enjoy the outdoors without concern for adverse interactions with hunters. About 20 years ago, we helped defeat a number of statewide Sunday hunting bills. Proponents of Sunday hunting then changed tactics, seeking to introduce Sunday hunting on a county-by-county basis, which we also opposed vigorously. Sometimes they were successful; sometimes not. When they were successful, they succeeded in making an already complicated situation more complicated, making it more difficult for others to plan their outings, and for Natural Resources Police to effectively crack down on poachers and irresponsible hunters, which has caused even more negative encounters between irresponsible hunters and other users.[6]

The Maryland Horse Council has proposed reasonable compromises that would still allow fair use of shared natural resources, by cutting off Sunday hunting, where allowed, at 10:30 am. This compromise still gives hunters, trail riders and others plenty of Sunday access to opportunities. This compromise has been embraced by some legislators, who have praised the Horse Council for this reasonable approach, and it has been adopted by Montgomery, Kent and Wicomico Counties. Now we are facing a bill that would allow all day Sunday hunting in Charles County on every Sunday of the year, because it covers all species of game birds and game mammals. According to the Maryland hunting season calendar, https://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/Documents/Hunting_Seasons_Calendar.pdf, there is an open season for at least one species on any day of the year. Coyote, groundhog and nutria are literally year-round. This bill does nothing to improve the situation for Natural Resources Police and continues to infringe on the fair rights of other users of our shared natural resources in Maryland.

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The issue of recreational Sunday hunting is certainly a fraught one. In a November 2018 independent Gonzales statewide poll, the vast majority of respondents opposed Sunday hunting:

SUNDAY HUNTING Oppose 68.9%; Favor 21.9%

Breakdown:

Strongly Favor 13.5%

Somewhat Favor 8.4%

Somewhat Oppose 15.4%

Strongly Oppose 53.5%

These majorities opposed to Sunday hunting are true in Baltimore Metro, Washington Metro AND Rural areas. Rural Maryland opposed Sunday hunting 60.5% vs 34.1% in favor. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded. (See footnote 1.) This bill directly contravenes that clear public opinion by authorizing DNR to allow all day hunting on all 52 Sundays of the year in Charles. This would be a tectonic shift for **Charles, which currently has only nine Sundays open (for deer hunting).**

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[6]In a 2016 Maryland Horse Council survey, 35% of respondents reported "adverse incidents" with hunte rs while trail riding, ranging from rudeness to deliberate attempts to spook horses, threatening with firearms, and firing of "warning" shots. Significant percentages of DNR's survey respondents also reported problems when encountering hunters.

It is important to make clear that the Horse Council is not opposed to hunting. Many of our members are hunters of deer, other game mammals and game birds. We just want to ensure that everyone has a safe option for enjoyment of the outdoors, especially in this time of COVID. The COVID pandemic has dramatically increased the level of outdoor activity and use of natural resources. According to DNR, 2020 State Park attendance increased by 45% to 21.5 million visitors. 2021 demand remained strong. ***Lt. Governor Rutherford stated: "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live, work, and play, more and more Marylanders are finding affordable, socially-distant, and family-friendly recreation opportunities at our parks and public lands,"*** (See footnote 2.) Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, and are unaware that they may encounter hunters in the woods. Now is not the time to roll the dice and increase the chances of potential adverse interactions between hunters and members of the pubic who are relatively new to the outdoors..

It is also sometimes argued that recreational hunters need Sundays because they have other things to do on Saturdays - a situation that plainly applies to most of Maryland's families who use outdoor resources, be they hunters, birdwatchers, dog walkers, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and trail riders. So why should one group get special consideration? Where is the balancing of the public good, the equitable access? The number of licensed hunters in Maryland, about 100,000, is less than 2% of the state's population of about 6 million. The number of licensed resident hunters is reportedly 9th lowest among all the states.[7] Compare that with the 24% who reported (pre-pandemic) making frequent or occasional trips specifically to view and experience wildlife in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes. (See footnote 1.)
In the Horse Council's statewide survey on Sunday hunting, 68% of respondents ride on trails on public or private land one or more days a week. And, perhaps most significantly, 85% said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.

This bill would authorize Sunday hunting on private land. We of course recognize that private land owners have some right to decide what uses they want to allow on their land. But such rights have never been absolute, as any review of zoning and land use rules can plainly establish. And, as a practical matter the public/private land distinction affords little relief since public and private tracts are often relatively small, non-contiguous, intertwined and rarely well-marked. In our survey, referenced above, 56% of respondents said they ride on trails that cross both public and private land.

CONCLUSION

We urge the Committee to give SB 388 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryland Horse Council
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)

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[7] https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/maryland-is-the-9-state-with-the-fewest-registered-hunters/ar-AAPKtT8

THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY

Thoroughbred & Standardbred horse racing & breeding ♦ trail riding ♦ steeplechase ♦ sport horse competitions ♦ rodeo ♦ carriage driving ♦ therapy programs ♦ recreation ♦ rescue and more

A Dynamic Agricultural Entity

705,000 ACRES

25% of the State's agricultural land

10% of Maryland land

$80,000,000 on feed, hay and straw

Pastures are amoung the best filtering devices to protect the Chesapeake Bay from harmful runoff

88,000 equine acres preserved forever as farmland

Number of Horses in Maryland

101,457

Horses in Maryland - making MD the number one state in terms of the number of horses per square mile!

10.5 horses per square mile!

200 Equine Orgs. Statewide

16,000 Horse Farms & Stables

40 breeds

35 different equine disciplines

Integral to the State's Economy

$2.1 Billion Economic Impact

$78m in tax revenue

28,000 industry jobs

$1B spent by participants

A Global Equine Idenity

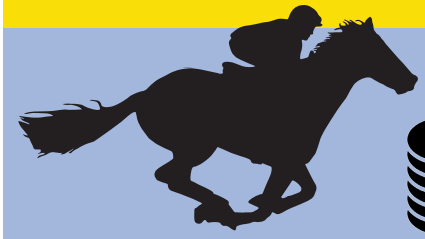
51.8% of households in MD contain horse enthusiasts

10,000 Youths served by MD's Educational Programs
1,500 4H Horse Projects
765 Licensed Riding & Boarding Stables
55 High School Interscholastic Teams
22 Pony Clubs
12 College Equine Teams & Clubs

MD is home to International gems:
Triple Crown Race - the Preakness since 1875
International 5-Star at Fair Hill in 2020

THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Racing Sector



Adds **$365 million** in value to the state economy

Racing Sector Total Economic Impact of:
$572 million

Supports
5,214 jobs

The Competition Sector

Competition Sector Total Economic Impact of:
$270 million

Supports **3,346 jobs**

Adds **$162 million** in value to the state economy

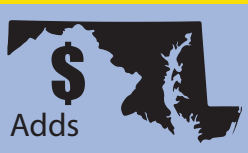
The Recreation Sector

Supports
4,971 jobs

Adds **$234 million** in value to the state economy

Recreation Sector Total Economic Impact of:
$382 million

The Equine Therapy Sector



Adds
$8.4 million
in value to the state economy

40 Therapeutic Riding Centers Including over a dozen Veterans groups

Information provided by

The American Horse Council Foundation 2017

Institute for Governmental Service and Research University of Maryland 2017

Maryland Equine Census, USDA 2010

SB 388 Testimony Hills Bridge Beagles.pdf
Uploaded by: Margaret Crane
Position: UNF

Hills Bridge Beagles

Testimony SB 388 – Charles County Sunday Hunting

Senate Committee on the Environment, Health, and Education

Position: OPPOSE

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Committee Members

My name is Margaret Addis Crane. I am a farm owner in Calvert County and the Joint Master of the Hills Bridge Beagles, a beagling foot pack that hunts in Calvert County and Charles County. The Hills Bridge Beagles are recognized foot pack by the National Beagle Club, the AKC parent club of Beagle breed.

I have been part of this pack since its inception – more than 40 years ago. The pack has between 60-80 followers that come out one or more times in any given season. Our followers range from the very young to the young at heart. Beagling gives people who might not otherwise have the opportunity, a chance to get out in the countryside to enjoy all the beauty Southern Maryland has to offer.

As you are well aware, the effect of SB 388 will be expanded from Sunday deer hunting from seven (7) Sundays to twenty-one(21) Sundays each season. Under the current deer season, the Hills Bridge do everything they can not to impact the deer hunters and what this generally means is we go out on Sundays. If the season is expanded from 7 Sundays to 21 Sundays, then there will be no way the Hills Bridge Beagles can avoid the deer hunters. Unfortunately, my experience with deer hunters in Southern Maryland is they do not want to share the resource. As a result the Hills Bridge Beagles and its followers have been subjected to threats and harassment by deer hunters because they not want anybody to "disturb" the deer.

The HBB is not anti-gun or anti-hunting by any means. What the Hills Bridge Beagles are advocating for is a "*share the resource*" approach. Unfortunately, because my experience has been that deer hunters are not interested in sharing the resource and I can give countless examples where both public and private lands have been closed to all other hunting/chasing groups because of the deer hunters. I'd just ask that you consider a *sharing the resource approach* and oppose SB 388.

If you're interested in learning more about Beagling you can see the Hills Bridge Beagles on Outdoors Maryland by using the following link https://americanarchive.org/catalog/cpb-aacip-394-23hx3m9f . This video won an Emmy and was voted Maryland's Favorite dog video. I would note that the Hills Bridge Beagles no longer hunt on the farm shown in the Outdoors Maryland video which is Anne Arundel County. The farm was purchased by DNR, and the farm is now limited to deer hunting. The Beagles cannot use the farm even one time a year, which is a sad commentary on resource management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before this committee. Margaret Crane

SB0388_DNR_LOI_EHEA_3-9-22.pdf
Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman
Position: INFO

MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Larry Hogan, *Governor*
Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, *Secretary*
Allan Fisher, *Deputy Secretary*

Bill Number: Senate Bill 388

Short Title: Charles County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting

Department's Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR or the Department) provides this letter of information on SB 388, which would increase hunting recreation in Charles County. Increased game mammal and game bird hunting opportunities assist with population management and will result in additional revenue for those industries and groups that support hunting.

Hunting remains the most effective method for controlling and managing the deer population throughout Maryland. The Department advises that Sunday hunting has contributed positively to managing the state's white-tailed deer population in the 20 counties where it is now permitted. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on weekends, so allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.

Contact: Bunky Luffman, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
Bunky.luffman1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-689-9165