



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 1, 2023

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support with Amendment of HB 934 - Natural Resources - Female Deer Hunting Contests - Authorization**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support with amendment of HB 934, legislation that authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person, for the management of the deer population in the State, to sponsor, conduct, or participate in an existing, random contest in the State held during the month of January that has the objective of harvesting a female deer.

Crop damage created by deer is nearly \$50 per acre today. These numbers are even higher on the Eastern Shore. Since this bill is a statewide bill, but is focused more around a successful program already in place on the Eastern Shore, MDFB requests an amendment to replace "the month of January" with "the approved hunting seasons" to allow for a more flexible timeline for additional programs to be created.

Amendment #1:

On page 2, line 8. Strike "MONTH OF JANUARY" and replace with "APPROVED HUNTING SEASONS"

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 934 WITH AN AMENDMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson".

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396