

February 13, 2024

Senator Brian Feldman
Chairman
Education, Energy and Environment
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

LETTER OF SUPPORT: SB367 Natural Resources – Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs – Authorization

Chairman Feldman,

I am writing in support of SB367 for Antlerless deer hunting program. I am a minority farmer in Dorchester County, Md. I farm over 1800 hundred acres. 2023 saw extensive damage to my crops due to the hot spot of deer on my farm, a herd of up to 200 any given night. There is documentation and drone footage to support my statement. I have asked for emergency relief to no avail from the DNR or Dept of AG. I have had to resort to getting USFW to come in which I have had to pay for out of my pocket to help my situation. I personally lost over \$100,000.00 plus of income on just this one farm last year. I cannot survive taking losses like this every year. I have the right to farm and should be able to help protect my investment which ultimately puts food on my table. The deer are out of control in this county. Farmers need every tool in their box to help with this situation, allowing the Antlerless Program to continue is a way to encourage our youth to participate in the sport of hunting and encourages them to do so. This program also gives incentive to farmers to come out those last three days when they usually would not hunt. The program is growing each year. This is by no means the answer to the problem of explosion of deer but it allows the farming community another way to encourage hunters to help out with deer in our county.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Regards

Libby Handley Nagel