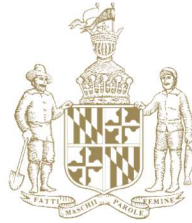


NATALIE ZIEGLER
Legislative District 9A
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Environment and Transportation Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 447
Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation**

Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present House Bill 447 - Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation. The purpose of this bill is to simply reestablish and expand the sunset income tax credit for deer donated to food banks or other charitable organizations. This program which lasted from 2018-2022 provided tax credits of \$50 per deer – to keep up with the cost of processing, we have increased this to amount \$75. By providing this tax credit incentive, hunters will be more willing to hunt and harvest antlerless deer while also controlling the states deer populations and contributing to food banks.

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers across Maryland have faced \$10 million in economic losses due to wildlife damage, 77% of which are caused by deer. In addition to agricultural impact, the Department of Natural Resources reported that in 2021, 30,000-35,000 collisions were caused by deer. Deer control is also critical in the mitigation of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 447.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Natalie Ziegler'.

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Howard & Montgomery Counties, District 9A