



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Maryland
Legislative Committee

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ENDORSEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 86 – FISHING AND HUNTING RIGHTS

Chairman Pensky, Vice Chairwoman Kagan and distinguished members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, Representing The American Legion Department of Maryland, this century old veterans service organization avidly supports Senate Bill 86.

This bill insures the right of Maryland residents who wish to fish or hunt in accordance with regulations set by the General Assembly and conducted and supported by various state agencies. If enacted Senate Bill 90 would join 22 states who have guaranteed the right to hunt and fish, according to the *Fiscal and Policy Note* accompanying this measure.

Normally, I advocate of behalf of veterans and their families and my support for this proposal does not depart from my normal responsibilities. The American Legion has a membership in excess of 45,000 throughout Maryland with significant numbers of hunting and fishing enthusiasts, especially in the Mountain region and the Eastern Shore. Some do it for the challenge, some enjoy putting their catch on the family dinner table.

There's an additional aspect too. Both hunting and fishing can be excellent therapeutic assets for our disabled veterans. We have American Legion posts on the Eastern Shore who take wounded warriors out for fishing trips monthly.

Senate Bill 86 has many enjoyable benefits and we ask you to render a favorable report on this valued legislative proposal. Thank you.

Respectfully, yours

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chair
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