



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary  
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan  
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 312 – Talbot County – Sunday Hunting – Deer Bow Hunting Season***

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 312 and respectfully requests a favorable committee report.

This bill will expand Sunday bowhunting for deer in Talbot County. The bill will authorize the department to allow archery hunting on Sundays in Talbot County during the deer bow season from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January. Sunday hunting during the prime fall and winter months is the last remaining tool to help manage deer populations in Maryland.

Since 2004 when one firearms deer hunting Sunday was authorized for several counties, the results have been remarkable – with many counties enjoying 15-25% of their total harvest occurring on that single Sunday. Reducing the deer population will reduce crop losses to Maryland farmers and minimize the likelihood of automobile collisions with deer and the concomitant personal and property damage.

A departmental bill, introduced in the House as HB 173, would reformat the Sunday hunting statute if passed. Talbot County could be incorporated into §10-410(A)(2) of the proposed language in HB 173 if both bills pass.

Senate Bill 312 will allow archery hunting on Sundays in Talbot County during the deer bow season from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January.

For the above reasons, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests the Committee to grant Senate Bill 312 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,  
James W. McKitrick  
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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