

March 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I write to implore you to **OPPOSE SB 500 and SB 312** -- the Sunday Hunting Bills that affect every outdoor enthusiast in your district, not just hunters.

Despite its wealth, there are no parks in Talbot County in which to ride horses or where nature lovers can deeply engage with the outdoors. We can look forward to the day when the 107 acre Frederick Douglas Park is open for visitors, but many bird watchers and dog walkers are compelled to recreate on private land. Many horse owners do not own horse trailers; indeed, private land is the only place that they *can* ride. Some property owners feel they should be able to do whatever they want on their own property; but what they do can have a direct impact on their neighbors.

I like to ride in the woods behind my house. However, I am surrounded by several landowners who rent their property to hunters, and the property lines all abut each other in the woods. Bullets and arrows do not respect these property lines, and even if they did, the sound of gunshots -- and the fear of being shot -- deter me from enjoying the outdoors during the best times of the year, and for weeks -- even months -- at a time. We need to encourage children to get outside and explore nature rather than create obstacles to the outdoors.

The horse industry's \$2.1 billion impact on Maryland's economy is huge. Horse farms make up 10% of Maryland's land, and pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Bay from runoff. Other advantages of pastures? They are excellent absorbers of carbon dioxide, they are critical habitat for many grassland bird species that are in severe decline, and they provide open space for all to enjoy as well.

So in the name of equity for all and science for a better environment, please vote against the above-referenced bills.

Respectfully,  
Joyce Bell – wbell2@washcoll.edu  
6682 J Oren Road  
Easton, MD (Talbot County)

ATTACHMENTS: Current Sunday Hunting Calendar  
2020 Economic Impact Flyer (2 pages) from MD Horse Industry Board

# SUNDAY DEER HUNTING 2019-2020 (FOR WHITE-TAILED AND SIKA DEER)

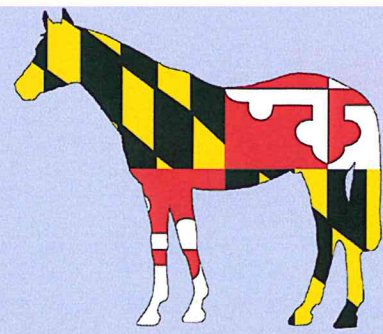
Sunday hunting is allowed only on these dates and time during these seasons.

COUNTY	Archery Season												Firearms Season				Muzzleloader Season		Lands Open					
	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	Nov. 17 (for Hunt)	Dec. 1		Dec. 8	Jan. 12	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	
ALLEGANY	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public 1
ANNE ARUNDEL								Open										Open						Private Only
BALTIMORE																								None
CALVERT						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
CAROLINE						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
CARROLL					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
CECIL	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public 1
CHARLES						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
DORCHESTER					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
FREDERICK					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
GARRETT	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public 1
HARFORD						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
HOWARD																								None
KENT	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
MONTGOMERY	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open	Open	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Open <sup>2</sup>	Private Only
PRINCE GEORGE'S																								None
QUEEN ANNE'S						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
ST. MARY'S	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public 1
SOMERSET						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
TALBOT						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
WASHINGTON REGION A	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public 1
WASHINGTON REGION B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
WICOMICO						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
WORCESTER						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only

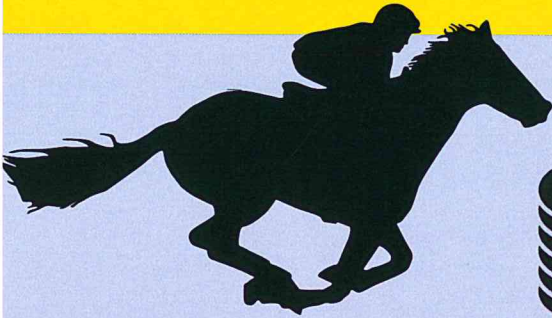
<sup>1</sup>Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington counties are: Blimmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Earville WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Grove Farm WMA, Indian Springs WMA, McCoolle FMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Old Bohemia WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA and Warrior Mountain WMA.

<sup>2</sup>Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent, Montgomery and Wicomico counties where footnoted).

# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT



## The Racing Sector



Adds **\$365 million** in value to the state economy



Racing Sector Total Economic Impact of:  
**\$572 million**



Supports  
**5,214 jobs**

## The Competition Sector



Competition Sector Total Economic Impact of:

**\$270 million**

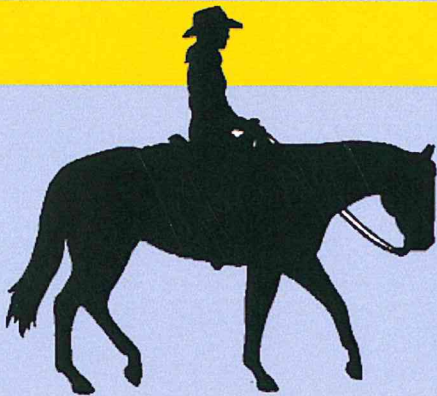


Supports **3,346 jobs**



Adds **\$162 million** in value to the state economy

## The Recreation Sector



Supports  
**4,971 jobs**



Adds **\$234 million** in value to the state economy

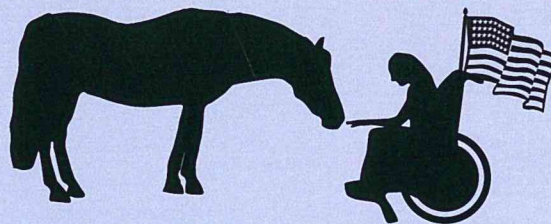
Recreation Sector Total Economic Impact of:  
**\$382 million**



## The Equine Therapy Sector



Adds  
**\$8.4 million** in value to the state economy



**40** Therapeutic Riding Centers Including over a dozen Veterans groups

Information provided by

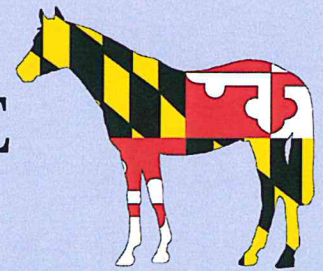
The American Horse Council Foundation 2017

Institute for Governmental Service and Research University of Maryland 2017

Maryland Equine Census, USDA 2010




# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY



Thoroughbred & Standardbred horse racing & breeding ♦ trail riding ♦ steeplechase ♦ sport horse competitions ♦ rodeo ♦ carriage driving ♦ therapy programs ♦ recreation ♦ rescue and more

## A Dynamic Agricultural Entity


# 705,000 ACRES

 25% of the State's agricultural land

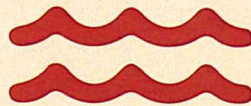
Pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Chesapeake Bay from harmful runoff

10% of Maryland land



 \$80,000,000 on feed, hay and straw

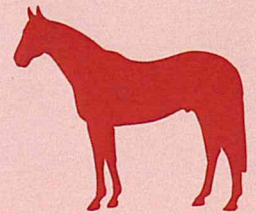
88,000 equine acres preserved forever as farmland



## Number of Horses in Maryland

# 101,457

Horses in Maryland - making MD the number one state in terms of the number of horses per square mile!



10.5 horses per square mile!

**200**  
Equine Orgs. Statewide

**16,000**  
Horse Farms & Stables

**35**  
different equine disciplines

**40** breeds

## Integral to the State's Economy

 **\$2.1 Billion** Economic Impact

 **\$78m** in tax revenue

 **28,000** industry jobs

 **\$1B** spent by participants

## A Global Equine Identity



51.8% of households in MD contain horse enthusiasts



**10,000** Youths served by MD's Educational Programs

**1,500** 4H Horse Projects

**765** Licensed Riding & Boarding Stables

**55** High School Interscholastic Teams

**22** Pony Clubs

**12** College Equine Teams & Clubs



**MD is home to International gems:**

Triple Crown Race - the Preakness since 1875  
International 5-Star at Fair Hill in 2020