

RE: HB0863 Natural Resources-Organized Hunting Contests-Restrictions

February 26, 2020

Honorable Members of the
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

OPPOSE

Dear Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is A.J. Fleming. I'm the president of the QDMA in Western Maryland and the director of Maryland's Tri-County QDM Co-op. The members of these organizations wish to be recorded in **strong opposition** to this legislation.

Name / President QDMA / Director MD Tri County QDM Co-op / Opposed to legislation

Predator hunters who hunt in organized hunts are no different than any other sportsmen. They are not takers; they are caretakers.

Predator hunters = Sportsmen / Not takers / Rather Caretakers

If you doubt this today, you're basing your opinion on either a select few who have misrepresented hunting or information from a special interest group.

Opinion based on Select Few Misrepresent Hunting / Special interest group

Some of these hunts in Maryland are being mislabeled as contests. These hunts aren't contests, but a small incentive to get hunters out to help farmers, land managers and homeowners deal with overabundant coyote, fox, and racoon populations.

Many of these are hunts/ NOT contests / Hunter become incentivized to predator hunt

Hunters have no incentive to hunt coyotes, fox, and racoon since the fur market no longer offers those incentives.

Hunters Have no incentive / Fur Market Historically Low

If this incentive disappears with increasing populations, Farmers and Landowners will have to pay these guys to take care of a coyote after it's eaten a calf or kitten. I don't think that's going

to be too popular with the farming community or your local HOA when they are paying \$100-\$200 to remove a single problem animal.

Incentive Disappears / Farmers, Landowners, HOA will pay \$100-\$200 = NOT Popular

Finally, I make a plea with you today to look beyond the sensationalism. Don't allow policy to be dictated by a special interest group or a small splinter group that has misrepresented hunting.
-Please!

Look Beyond Sensationalism/ Policy Not dictated by SIG or SG misrepresented hunting.

So the Western Maryland QDMA and Maryland Tri County QDM Co-op and its members are requesting a **“NO”** vote on HB0863.

Sincerely,

A.J. Fleming
President, Mtn. MD QDMA

Director
MD Tri County QDM Co-op