

RE: HB0863 Natural Resources-Organized Hunting Contests -Restrictions

Date: February 26, 2020

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

OPPOSE

Honorable Chair and **Distinguished members of the committee**, my name is Chris Miller I am a farmer from Garrett County Maryland. I wish to be recorded in strong opposition to this legislation.

Over the years, I have noticed a spike in the number of predators where I live, and it has become harder to protect my livestock.

I have had 3 attacks on my calves from coyotes, and in January one of those calves was killed while still being born. I couldn't get to it in time to save it. While the calf was hanging from its mother, the coyotes bit the calf in the face suffocating it and eventually killing it.

(3 coyote attacks, 1 dead calf in January while mother was giving birth)

I have lost more chickens than I can count from foxes, raccoons, and other predators.
(chicken loss)

These hunts help get young people outdoors and put even more hunting pressure on coyotes.

(More people hunting and more pressure on coyotes)

I'm afraid if these organized hunts aren't allowed, people aren't going to hunt coyotes and even more of my animals will die.

(Fewer people hunting coyotes more of my animals killed)

Today, I respectfully request a **"NO" vote on HB0863.**

Sincerely,
Chris Miller
Garrett County Farmer

