



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 26, 2020

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB863 - Natural Resources - Organized Hunting Contests - Restrictions**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 863. This bill prohibits a person from sponsoring, conducting, or participating in an organized contest that has the objective of hunting or killing a fur-bearing mammal or an unprotected mammal for prizes for monetary rewards.

Even though, this bill doesn't restrict a farmer from protecting their livestock by using someone to hunt and trap on their property. It does remove the ability for hunting clubs to have events that focus on culling down problem packs of coyotes in and around livestock producers. This bill would also restrict the Fox Hunting events that many of our equine members participate in. These are very well run and shouldn't be shut down. Economic loss due to wild packs of coyotes in Western Maryland is substantial. Remove a tool to address this issue will increase that livestock looses in the future.

MFB Policy: We support greater efforts to reduce the coyote population. We support the harvesting of foxes.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 863

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396