

February 24, 2020

Chairperson Kumar Barve  
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401 (by hand)

**RE: Opposition to HB863**

Dear Chairperson Barve and Committee Members:

I am an animal lover and sportsman, and I write to you in opposition to HB 863, as, if passed, the bill could outlaw constructive, traditional, and humane sporting activities such as hound trials.

Although I am definitively against the wanton and wholesale killing of wildlife in the manner of "wildlife killing contests" recently described by the Humane Society, it is important to consider the impact of this bill on legitimate sporting activities.

Specifically, hound trials, do NOT result in the wholesale killing of coyotes, foxes, or racoons, and frequently no quarry is harmed. The goal of a hound trial is the thrill of the chase and the betterment of each breed by assessing the voice, stamina, speed, and scenting ability of the competing hounds during the chase. The satisfaction lies in the hunt and not the kill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice Altstatt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "A" at the end.

Alice Altstatt  
2350 Deer Park Rd.  
Finksburg, MD 21048