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## SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

February 24, 2021

### SENATE BILL 769

Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation – Alterations, Extension and Testing  
for Chronic Wasting Disease

### SUPPORT

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The Hunters of Maryland represent the interests of Maryland’s hunting community at both the State and local level. Few realize that it is the hunters who underwrite virtually 100% of all wildlife management/research costs through their purchase of hunting licenses, stamps and equipment. For the record, we do so willingly, aka *American System of Conservation Funding*.

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**THE HONORABLE GUY GUZZONE, CHAIR**  
**HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**T**he Hunters of Maryland commend Senators Hester and Bailey – Senate Vice Co-Chair and Chair, respectively, of the bi-partisan Maryland Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus -- for their foresight in proposing not only to increase the amount and duration of the tax credit authorized for the harvesting/donation of deer to 501 (c)(3) non-profit organizations, aka *Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry*, et al, but also to have the State assess the potential health-related implications attendant to donated deer from a CWD perspective.

It is important for the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee to understand that other bills introduced during the 2021 Session re deer harvesting have not garnered similar support; but, instead, vehement opposition. Senate Bill 798/House Bill 594 would commercialize the sale of venison comparable to a \$50 cash bounty program -- ruled illegal by the Attorney General but ignored -- launched by Anne Arundel County in Fall 2020. When taxpayer dollars are used to harvest a publicly owned resource, the detrimental impact is measurable, aka decimation, poaching and black markets.

Bill Miles  
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