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Regarding SB769: Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation

I would like to thank Senator Hester for introducing SB769, Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation.

Please accept my testimony in favor of this bill.

SB769 does several things – all of which are a win-win both for the farmer and for the community at large. This past year has brought an increased need for food donations as many have struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, farmers face the challenge of raising crops with increasing damage from a growing deer population. Deer, on average, can cause \$50/acre (or more) of crop damage on Maryland crops. A farmer is allowed to harvest deer under deer management permits, however they still have to pay the cost to have the deer processed.

There is a credit currently in place, however it is a modest amount against the increased deer processing costs. The modest alterations introduced by SB769 give an added incentive to the farmer to recoup some of the crop damage loss, as well as provide a needed source of protein for local food banks. Not only does SB769 increase the tax credit, but it also allows a farmer to double the amount of deer they can have processed and donate to a food bank, while still receiving credit for doing so.

Support of SB769 allows hunters throughout the state of Maryland to make more food bank donations each year through this tax credit program.

Thank you for your consideration,



Leslie Bauer