



MARYLAND
FOOD BANK
EASTERN SHORE

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Testimony for SB769

As a near 10-year employee of the MD Food Bank and Volunteer Coordinator for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) for a few years, I am in support of SB 0769. In one of the wealthiest states in the country, Maryland is home to over 1 million food insecure individuals. From the MD Food Bank side, protein is one of the most needed items for distribution. On the agricultural side, deer remain a challenge in the success of our farmers. Deer wreak havoc by eating and destroying grain, produce, and even Christmas trees. It seems a logical way to work to assist those facing food insecurity and decrease the deer population is to harvest deer to provide much needed protein for the hungry.

As volunteer coordinator for FHFH, I have learned that the largest challenge facing butchers is proper compensation. The message from butchers remains consistent in that costs are rising. Butchers have their own families to feed and cannot be expected to use their time and resources to process deer for limited compensation. SB 0769 provides an avenue to assist both the butchers and food banks meet the two goals stated above. This bill also benefits the hunter who delivers and pays for the processing of the deer up front. Thus the passage of this bill looks to be a “win-win-win.”

Amy Cawley

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