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The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The Sportsmen's Best Friend in Annapolis

February 24, 2021

Senate Bill 769 – Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation – Alterations, Extension, and Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, I am writing today in support of **Senate Bill 769 – Income Tax Credit for Venison Donation – Alterations, Extension, and Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease**. This bill alters the venison donation tax credit by increasing the value of the tax credit and extending the tax credit program through June 30, 2028. Beginning in tax year 2021, the bill increases the value of the tax credit to up to \$75 for each qualified donation, and the annual limitation on the tax credits that may be claimed is increased to \$600. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2021 on the testing of deer brought to deer processors for chronic wasting disease.

This bill helps the processor and hunter because the processor will be paid the full amount of the processing fee and the hunter will be reimbursed for the entire processing fee. This bill also benefits landowners and farmers because these incentives will reduce the deer population, and it assists the hungry by providing them with venison. In particular, the report required by this bill starts to look at venison donated through this program to ensure that the State is providing a safe and healthy food source to the hungry.

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 769, and we thank Senator Hester for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Senator Jack Bailey
Senate Chair