



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 356. This bill would allow Sunday hunting for all deer, other game mammals, and game bird species in Calvert County throughout their respective seasons. Currently, Calvert County is authorized for Sunday deer hunting during the firearm season and the majority of the deer archery season. The county is also authorized for Sunday hunting of turkey through the spring turkey season.

In general, the department strongly supports the self-determination of local jurisdictions to expand hunting opportunities within State, and federal rules and regulations. Hunting remains the most cost-effective method for controlling the deer population throughout Maryland. The department advises that Sunday hunting has contributed positively to managing the State's white-tailed deer population in the 20 counties where it is now permitted. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on weekends, so allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer. Hunters have harvested over 75,000 deer on Sundays since becoming a legal hunting day in 2003.

There are a number of public lands in Calvert County, however, most of those existing tracts would not be open to Sunday hunting under the existing law because of the statutory bar against opening lands managed by the Maryland Park Service or prohibitions against hunting migratory game birds on Sunday.

For the above reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant SB 356 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKittrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service

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