

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB318.pdf

Uploaded by: Bailey, Jack

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 10, 2021

Senate Bill 318 – Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 318 – Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights. This bill would affirm the importance of hunting and fishing to Maryland's cultural and social heritage and economy. The bill also codifies the intent of the General Assembly that Marylanders have a right to hunt and fish in accordance with regulations and restrictions under laws enacted by the General Assembly.

Both during my career as a Natural Resources Police Officer and during my tenure in the Senate, I have seen the importance of responsible hunting and fishing to our State, and to our rural communities in particular. I believe that we need to protect and expand the rights of Marylanders to hunt and fish in our State. Passage of this bill would also support the hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who fish and hunt and the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity that hunting and fishing generate in our State each year.

Reasonable regulation of hunting and fishing is necessary to preserve our environment for future generations to enjoy, and this legislation recognizes the General Assembly's important role with hunting and fishing. These statutes need to be balanced with the rights of our residents in this area. Formal recognition of these rights are intended to help in protecting this balance.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill 86 as it passed this Committee and the Senate in the 2020 Legislative Session. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 318. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Support of SB 318 - Natural Resources - Fishing an

Uploaded by: Ferguson, Colby

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 10, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB 318 - Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 318, legislation that simply establishes a Right-to-Fish & Hunt in Maryland as long as the person is following the regulations and restrictions outlined in state law.

MDFB supports the right to hunt and fish in Maryland. Hopefully, this bill will assist with ensuring hunting and fishing remain available throughout the state. Controlling wildlife habitats assist with lowering the impact of crop damage from deer and other regulated wildlife.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 318 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

SB0318_DNR_SUP EHEA 2-10-2021-3.pdf

Uploaded by: McKitrick, James

Position: FAV



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

February 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 318 – Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 318. This bill would establish the intent of the General Assembly that residents of Maryland have a right to fish and hunt.

The department shares the belief with the bill's sponsor that fishing and hunting are a valuable part of the State's cultural and social heritage that provides enormous environmental and recreational benefits. These benefits were on full display as Maryland's citizens have flocked to outdoor recreation at record rates at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as a means to weather the storm, both mentally and physically. Continuing to value and support fishing and hunting together with other outdoor activities and conservation is critical for Maryland's ongoing recovery.

It is also true that hunting and fishing greatly support the state's economy, as acknowledged in SB 318. The most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation estimated that anglers and hunters in Maryland spent nearly \$800 million. Recreational fishing accounted for an estimated \$535 million, while hunting accounted for \$264 million. Much of these expenditures were on food, lodging, equipment and transportation.

Fishing and hunting play not only an important part in Maryland's economy, but in funding the success of DNR's mission. Revenues generated by the sale of these fishing and hunting licenses directly supports the department's fish and wildlife conservation

and protection efforts. In addition, a portion of every dollar spent by hunters on sporting arms returns to the State as dedicated federal funding for the restoration and improvement of wildlife habitat.

For the above reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant SB 318 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Miles 2.10.21 testimony SB318.pdf

Uploaded by: miles, william

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SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 10, 2021

SENTE BILL 318
Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights
SUPPORT

Of relevance to the debate on SB 318 is the Sunday, February 7, 2021 COMMENTARY appearing in the Capital Gazette entitled, **'LOVE WATERFOWL? THANK A HUNTER FOR SAVING THEM.**
<https://www.capitalgazette.com/environment/ac-cn-column-gerald-winegrad-2021207-20210206-hj23k4rxurbwfoulz7ken2v3ni-story.html>

THE HONORABLE PAUL G. PINSKY, Chair
HONORABLE MEMBERS OF SEHEA

The Hunters of Maryland commend Senators Bailey and Simonaire for their introduction of SB 318 which duly recognizes the legacy, tradition and heritage of fishing/hunting in Maryland. From the hills and streams of Western Maryland to the Susquehanna Flats and the Atlantic Ocean, Maryland is renowned for some of the best fishing and hunting anywhere in the world. Ocean City is known as the “White Marlin Capital of the World” – bestowed by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 -- while the Eastern Shore is known as the “Goose Hunting Capital of the World.” No other state can so boast such titles.

According to the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, the most recent data relevant to fishing and hunting in Maryland, via links below – truly economic engines in their own respective rights – reveals that 445,000 hunters and anglers spent \$815 million each year.

http://congressionalsportsmen.org/uploads/page/2019_Maryland_ASCEF_Sheet.pdf
<http://congressionalsportsmen.org/uploads/page/Maryland-Factsheet.pdf>

From a hunting perspective, few understand what it is like being afield. It’s not the harvesting per se, but the experience of being one with nature generally in the harshest of weather conditions. Hunters, not taxpayers, underwrite virtually 100% of the State’s entire cost for managing wildlife consistent with the American System of Conservation Funding, aka “user fee based” via hunting license/stamp sales. Notably as well, it’s been over 30 years since Maryland has approved a regular hunting license fee increase. Moreover, one need only view legislation over the last decade plus to see that it’s the hunters of Maryland who have advanced legislation to punish poachers, strengthen conservation law enforcement efforts and pursue alternative public funding support.

Enactment of Senate Bill 318 by the 2021 General Assembly will send a message to the citizenry, et al, that hunting and fishing in Maryland are noble pursuits worthy of respect, recognition and support in ways not yet imagined, but known to all as an everlasting legacy.

Bill Miles
Advocate, Hunters of Maryland