



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

March 11, 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 Information – Senate Bill 453 – Allegany County and Garrett County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on Senate Bill 453. This bill would modify the required buffer zone for archery deer hunting in Allegany and Garrett counties from 150 to 50 yards.

Several counties have reduced the required distance for archery hunters in the past decade. There is no evidence that reducing the distance has led to additional accidents or conflicts with landowners or other hunters. The reduced zone increases the number of hunting areas available to archery deer hunters. SB 453 also increases access for the harvest of deer primarily in areas where deer populations are higher due to a lack of hunting pressure. As a result, the negative consequences borne of overabundant deer populations are reduced.

Thank you for allowing the department to provide this information on SB 453 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service