



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: Support with Amendments – Senate Bill 475 – Talbot County – Deer Hunting – Sundays

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 475 with the amendments that would conform the bill with its companion from the House of Delegates. This bill, as amended and passed by the House of Delegates, allows a person in Talbot County to hunt each Sunday of deer season as well as each Sunday of the Spring turkey season. Talbot County is currently authorized for deer hunting on two Sundays during the firearms season as well as five Sundays during the archery season. Sunday hunting during the Spring turkey season is currently not authorized.

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 and managing the deer population throughout most of the State. Sunday hunting is important for expanding deer harvest opportunities if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on the weekends, and allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer and other game species.

The department therefore believes that recreational hunting will increase in Talbot County by an additional 500 days for deer and 100 days for turkey. On Sundays during the 2019-2020 deer seasons in Talbot County, 101 deer were harvested. The department also estimates that approximately 50 more deer would be harvested on the additional Sundays in Talbot County, though this number depends greatly on how the Sundays were allocated for the three weapon seasons. In sum, increased opportunities to hunt deer and turkey in Talbot County will result in a positive economic and environmental impact for the local recreational hunting industry.

For these reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant SB 475 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services