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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Bill 634 Somerset County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to respectfully ask for your support of **Senate Bill 634 Somerset County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting**. This would authorize the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to allow an individual in Somerset County to hunt on private property on each Sunday of game bird and game mammal season. It would also allow Sunday hunting on public land to Somerset County leased to a hunt club.

This legislation would add Somerset County to the current list of Counties that are permitted to hunt on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons including Allegany County, Cecil County, Garrett County, St. Mary's County, Washington County as mentioned in **Article - Natural Resources** §10-410(a)(1). It also would allow Somerset County (leased to a hunt club) to hunt on public land along with Allegany County, Cecil County, Garrett County, St. Mary's County, Washington County, Dorchester County, and Frederick County as mentioned in §10-410(a)(15).

Senate Bill 634 is a local request from our active hunters as they believe this legislation would allow more time for Somerset County families to hunt during a limited season for game bird and game mammals. This would provide Somerset County hunters with the same benefits of several other counties that allow Sunday hunting and hunting on public land.

My panel will explain more of the family hunting and safety traditions in Somerset County, and the local benefits of this legislation. The panel includes Charles Laird, Somerset County Commission Vice President and Ashley Webster an active hunter in Somerset County. I respectfully ask my colleagues on the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 634.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this local bill.