

March 8, 2021

Honorable Committee Members for SB0325

I am against adding more Sundays to the deer hunting season, I am not against hunting and understand the need to cull deer. I am not a hunter but I am an outdoor enthusiast who is quite uneasy walking in a wooded area or across a meadow with the possibility of hunters nearby. How nice it is to have some Sundays when no hunting is permitted. My husband and son are deer hunters, they are uncomfortable when they see or hear non hunters in the woods where they are hunting. It brings their hunting to an end as long as non-hunters are present.

I live in a community where there are 400 plus homes, approximately 48 of these homes back up to Seth Demonstration Forest. There are two entrances into these woods, one from our community and one at the opposite end with an entrance from a county road. People enjoy walking under the tall canopy of trees and the wide natural paths. People walk with their dogs, grandchildren, for themselves and a few horseback riders visit. This bow hunt designated area has 5 Sundays at this time. Increasing Sunday hunting would prevent visiting Seth Forest the complete fall and it could cause human involved hunting accidents to those not aware.

The average person is not aware of hunting seasons. Sunday is a day when most people have time to enjoy the outdoors. It gives the animals a rest and people the freedom to explore without the worry of disturbing hunters or getting shot.

I am a member of the 65 year old Talbot County Bird Club, we presently have 106 members. Our bird walks are on Sundays with few exceptions, one of the reasons Sunday was chosen was in respect to hunting on other days.

If it is more income you are looking for, look at the gain over the expense of allowing more hunting days. The number of hunters applying for licenses is steadily going down. Perhaps it is time to look elsewhere for income.

Maryland has a full calendar of hunting now, please remember there are thousands of us do not hunt but have a right to be in the same place as hunters.

Please do not add more Sunday hunting.

Respectfully,

Bettye Maki
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