

**written testimony SB356.pdf**

Uploaded by: Baker III, Daniel

Position: FAV



March 8, 2021

Written testimony for SB356

In Support

My name is Daniel Baker. I am the President of The Maryland Fur Trappers Inc. and President of the Calvert County Sportsman's Club.

I have held a Maryland Hunting license for 44 years, starting as a Junior Hunter in 1977.

In the organizations in which I am President, we have programs with the young hunter and trappers in Calvert County.

With all the sporting games and practices on Saturdays the kids are really limited to only a few opportunities for hunting on the weekends.

A lot of parents work on Saturdays and are not able to take off work to take their junior hunter out into the field.

Allowing Sunday hunting gives more opportunity for our younger hunters to enjoy our natural resources that we cherish so. If they have bad weather or high winds on a Saturday, this will allow them to hunt on the following Sunday which might be more favorable.

With the now electronic world we live in now, we really must find ways to introduce and educate our youth on things outside like hunting and trapping.

With the traditions and knowledge that we have to pass on the next generation, we are going to have to create and harness as many opportunities that we can so they can experience the wonderful memories and fellowship that we did.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Baker III" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Baker III, President  
Maryland Fur Trappers Inc.  
Calvert County Sportsman's Club

**SB0356\_SMD.pdf**

Uploaded by: Goldstein, Mathew

Position: FAV



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March 10, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT SB0356 (HB0802) Calvert County - Sunday Hunting

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland bans, or otherwise limits, the sale of automobiles and other vehicles (Business Regulation Code Ann. §18–101), and the sale of alcohol (Alcoholic Beverages Code Ann. §11–102), on Sundays. Financial institutions must be closed on Sunday (Financial Institutions Code Ann. §5–704). Maryland is one of eleven states where hunting is still banned or otherwise restricted on Sunday (Natural Resources Code Ann. §10-410). Counties (and Baltimore) have avquired a variety of exemptions from some of these Sunday activity restrictions. Secular Maryland supports these exemption requests. We disagree with the state level Sunday activity restrictions.

Sunday is a special day of the week for many Christians. For other citizens the day of rest and worship may be Friday or Saturday, and for some citizens there is no god to worship or no fixed day of rest each week. Maryland law can be, and should be, more accommodating to this diversity of belief among its citizens. Legally banning business and leisure activity on Sundays favors a majority religious practice. Favoring a majority religious practice is not a proper goal of the laws. To the fullest extent feasible, our laws should accommodate minority religious practices along with non-religious and anti-religion beliefs.

The decisions regarding which day to hunt, to buy or sell alcohol, to buy or sell vehicles, to initiate and process financial transactions, etc., are best left to the citizens. State lawmakers can require one day off every week without specifying a particular day of the week by delegating that decision to the affected businesses. Hunting restrictions to accommodate horseback riding, hiking, and the like during the hunting season can be defined for particular hours throughout the week or rotated to different days for each week of the month instead of every Sunday.

**SB0356\_DNR\_SUP 3-10-21 EHEA .pdf**

Uploaded by: McKitrick, James

Position: FAV



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: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting***

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 356. This bill would allow Sunday hunting for all deer, other game mammals, and game bird species in Calvert County throughout their respective seasons. Currently, Calvert County is authorized for Sunday deer hunting during the firearm season and the majority of the deer archery season. The county is also authorized for Sunday hunting of turkey through the spring turkey season.

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 the deer population throughout Maryland. The department advises that Sunday hunting has contributed positively to managing the State's white-tailed deer population in the 20 counties where it is now permitted. Sunday hunting can be especially important if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on weekends, so allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer. Hunters have harvested over 75,000 deer on Sundays since becoming a legal hunting day in 2003.

There are a number of public lands in Calvert County, however, most of those existing tracts would not be open to Sunday hunting under the existing law because of the statutory bar against opening lands managed by the Maryland Park Service or prohibitions against hunting migratory game birds on Sunday.

For the above reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant SB 356 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick  
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service

Contact: James McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
JamesW.McKitrick@maryland.gov ♦ 443-510-5013

# CalvertCountySenators\_FWA\_SB356.pdf

Uploaded by: Bailey, Jack

Position: FWA

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 356 - Calvert County - Sunday Hunting**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

As the two Senators representing Calvert County, we hereby state our support for Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting with amendments. As amended, this local bill would add Calvert County to the list of counties where hunting would be permitted on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons.

This letter confirms the support of the Senatorial Delegation from Calvert County for Senate Bill 356 with the amendment offered by Senator Bailey to limit the bill's scope to private property. We would therefore respectfully ask for a favorable report with amendments from the Committee on this bill. Thank you for your attention to this important matter; please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. A. Jackson".

Senator Michael A. Jackson



**SenatorBailey\_FWA\_SB356.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bailey, Jack

Position: FWA

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
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*District Office*  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

March 10, 2021

**Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting. This bill would add Calvert County to the list of counties where hunting would be permitted on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons. In 2019, I sponsored legislation that extended Sunday hunting in St. Mary's County in this manner. Following passage of that bill, I began to hear from constituents in Calvert County about extending these same privileges to Calvert County residents.

I believe very strongly that all Marylanders should be able to hunt on Sundays. Hunting is significantly regulated by the State. There is a requirement that hunters must attend a Hunter Safety Education class, pass a written test, demonstrate firearm safety, and purchase a hunting license. Before hunting on private property, the hunter is required by law to get written permission of the landowner. The landowner can determine when, for what, what methods, and how hunting is allowed on their own property.

It is particularly important for our younger hunters, who often have school sporting events on weekdays and Saturdays, to permit Sunday hunting so that they can have an opportunity to participate in this great tradition. Sunday has become a very popular day for hunting in our State. Despite the current restrictions, according to the Department of Natural Resources, hunters harvested over 8,000 deer on Sundays in 2020, representing 10% of the total harvest.

Maryland's restrictions on Sunday hunting are a relic of an era that has long since passed. It is legal to target shoot on Sundays and to trap and kill groundhogs, coyotes, fisher, gray and red fox, nutria, opossum, raccoon and skunks on Sunday. It is also legal to shoot on a regulated shooting area or with a crop damage permit on Sunday. The current Sunday hunting laws are a significant restriction on the rights of private property owners to hunt or permit hunting on their own property.

As introduced, Senate Bill 356 would expand Sunday hunting on private and public lands of Calvert County. After introduction of this bill, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County requested to amend this bill to remove the provisions pertaining to public lands. As amended, this bill will still expand Sunday hunting rights in Calvert County, but only on private property. With this amendment, Senate Bill 356 has the support of the Calvert County Senators, the Calvert County Delegation, and the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 356 as amended to remove the public lands portion of the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29

**\_01 Sunday Hunting 3-8-2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: Howes, Charles

Position: FWA

Chairman Pinsky, and Committee Members:

My name is Charles Howes, I am a retired 25 year veteran of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, and current owner of a large family farm in Calvert County.

I am writing to request your support of Senate Bill 356 – Calvert County – Sunday Hunting. Passage of this legislation would permit the Department of Natural Resources to allow Sunday hunting of game mammals and birds in Calvert County. I am the proud Grandfather of eight. Five have grown up on our farm. My two oldest grandsons are currently serving the United States Army, leaving one grandson and two granddaughters at home. All five are avid hunters.

The main obstacle we face in mentoring these children in becoming safe, ethical hunters is time. My granddaughters, age seven and ten, require close supervision, as you can imagine. Even at their tender age, they were each successful in the recent deer hunting season. Allowing limited Sunday deer hunting in Calvert has been tremendously helpful in allowing them to participate in our family hunting endeavors. School, extracurricular activities, and work schedules complicate scheduling their hunting opportunities. Quite frequently, Sunday is the only day available in our busy lives to take the children hunting.

During my career with the Maryland Natural Resources Police, I worked closely with Calvert County landowners. Occasionally, I would be called to investigate a complaint of a trespassing hunter, but because of our written permission requirement, these instances were rare. I also witnessed an interesting transition during my field assignments, 1970 through 1988, of hunter participation during open hunting seasons. During the early part of my career, hunting activity during the week, especially deer hunting, was frequent and routine. As time passed, finding weekday hunting activity became increasingly more difficult. Current DNR deer kill statistics reflect this trend. Saturdays are by far the most popular and successful hunting day. People simply no longer utilize weekdays for hunting activities as much as in past. Life styles, distances for hunting areas and family obligations all impact on this trend. Consequently, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has identified Sundays as the second most important day in deer hunting success, in Counties where it is allowed.

From a landowner's perspective, I know of no reason why any landowner would oppose this legislation. Maryland requires a hunter to possess written permission from the landowner to hunt. This gives the landowner sole authority to regulate hunting activity on his property. Should a landowner disapprove of Sunday hunting, he can simply refuse to grant permission to any hunter desiring to hunt on Sunday.

Please support this legislation as another step forward in promoting our wonderful hunting heritage.

Thank you!

**SB356 1.26.21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Norris, John

Position: FWA



**CALVERT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243  
www.calvertcountymd.gov

*Board of Commissioners*  
Earl F. Hance, President  
Steven R. Weems, Vice President  
Mike Hart  
Thomas E. Hutchins  
Kelly D. McConkey

January 26, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC & FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The Honorable Jack Bailey  
402 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB356 – Calvert County - Sunday Hunting

Senator Bailey:

We began our public session acknowledging Senator Miller's legacy. Later, we expressed our appreciation for your proposal to allow persons to hunt on Sundays of the game bird and game mammal seasons. There is a multitude of benefits that come from this proposal, including additional recreation activities that have added land management benefits.

However, we respectfully request deferring Sunday hunting on public lands until the Department of Natural Resources can identify the location of those public lands that may be opened. Therefore, we ask you to consider an amendment to delete "Calvert County" at Line 8 of Page 5 of SB356. When and if the Department were to consider allowing Sunday hunting on public lands, we would be happy to revisit that topic with you and public input.

Thank you for your continued support of local initiatives for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance, President

Handwritten signature of Steven R. Weems in blue ink.

Steven R. Weems, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Thomas E. Hutchins in blue ink.

Thomas E. Hutchins

Handwritten signature of Kelly D. McConkey in blue ink.

Kelly D. McConkey

**MCrane Testimony (SB0356) 3-3-2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: Crane, Margaret

Position: UNF

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

TESTIMONY SB 0356

Good Afternoon Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Margaret Crane. I have lived my entire adult life in Southern Maryland and for the last two decades have owned a large farm in southern Calvert County. I raise horse, sheep, cattle, and chickens on my farm. I also invest in habitat including warm season grasses, and sustainable crops that benefit a wide variety of wildlife.

In addition to my farm also have a nationally recognized pack of foot beagles, named the Hills Bridge Beagles. Outdoors Maryland did a special on the Hills Bridge Beagles, and the episode won an Emmy. Perhaps you wonder why Outdoors Maryland did a documentary on the Hills Bridge Beagles, the reason is the Hills Bridge Beagles offers regular people, without special gear, special skills or special knowledge an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the natural world, and enjoy the amazing resources Southern Maryland has to offer, as well as the opportunity to safely enjoy community and fellowship with others which is especially important these days with COVID. I have approximately 100 people who may join the Beagles in the field at some during a year. People that beagle range in age from the very young to the very old because on a beautiful day the only thing you need to go beagling is to desire to get outside.

I personally, and in my role with the Hills Bridge Beagles, am not opposed to hunting. In fact, I buy a hunting license and a furbearer permit every year to support the efforts of DNR.

That being the case, why do I and in my capacity with the Hills Bridge Beagles object to SB 356? Because HB 0356 picks ***winner and losers***. What do I mean by this? Under SB 356, deer would hunters win because they will be given ***exclusive use and control of the natural resources***. How would it do this you ask?

- ❖ **This bill would allow hunting in Calvert County on every Sunday of the year.**
- ❖ **This bill would allow Sunday hunting on public as well as private land. Since the advent of the pandemic, widespread use of outdoor recreation and natural resources by the general public has steadily increased.**
- ❖ **The bill sponsors would have you believe this legislation is needed for crop damage, but farmers already have the ability to get crop damage permits to surgically address damage caused by deer.**
- ❖ **The real purpose of the bills is to allow hunters to hunt whatever is in season every Sunday of the year. This bill does not change any specific season (e.g. this does not allow deer hunting year round.)**



- ❖ **A majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting.** An independent statewide poll conducted by Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting, and 78% would decide to alter their recreational plans to avoid hunters. In a Maryland Horse Council 2016 poll, 85% of respondents said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **According to DNR's survey, only 8% of the general population has hunted in the last two years, and 84% has never hunted.**<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **According to DNR's own information State Park attendance in 2020 increased by 45% to 21.5 million visitors.**
- ❖ **Lt. Governor Rutherford recently stated: "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live, work, and play, more and more Marylanders are finding affordable, socially-distant, and family-friendly recreation opportunities at our parks and public lands...."**

Anyone who has spent any time outside, on either public land or private land knows that **deer hunters do not share**. Deer Hunters are fiercely protective of the resource and do not want anyone to use the resource, for any reason and at any time. I have repeatedly been told by deer hunters that **walking, running, biking, birding, riding and certainly beagling disturbs the deer and they will not tolerate it**. I could recount any number of times me, or my followers have been accosted by unhappy demanding deer hunters wielding a gun.

***The passage of SB 356 will deny anyone, other than hunters, the right to use the resource.***

In closing, I would respectfully ask you to consider, if the General Assembly represents all Marylanders, why would the General Assembly consider passing SB 356 which **gives 8% of the population a monopoly on using our natural resources?** That is what the effect of SB 356 will be – to give a monopoly on the use of the natural world in Calvert County to the gun hunters. This bill picks winners and losers and **outdoor enthusiasts will be the losers if this bill is passed.**

I urge the Committee to give SB 356 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Crane

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018\\_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf)

# **testimony - Sunday hunting - yearround - Calvert-S**

Uploaded by: Seigler, Jane

Position: UNF



Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 356 - Calvert County -  
Sunday Hunting: **OPPOSE**

- ❖ **A majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting.** An independent statewide poll conducted by Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting, and 78% would decide to alter their recreational plans to avoid hunters. In a Maryland Horse Council 2016 poll, 85% of respondents said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **This bill would allow hunting in Calvert County on every Sunday of the year.**
- ❖ **This bill would allow Sunday hunting on public as well as private land. Since the advent of the pandemic, widespread use of outdoor recreation and natural resources by the general public has only increased.** For example, attendance at Maryland State Parks in 2020 increased 45% over 2019, which was also a record year.<sup>2</sup> **Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons. Now is not the time to increase general public exposure to possible hunting risks.**
- ❖ **The Maryland horse industry represents \$2.1 billion in economic impact;** 28,000 jobs; \$1 billion in annual spending by participants; \$78 million in tax revenue. Over \$73 million in infrastructure improvements to public and private facilities around the state. There are over 100,000 horses in Maryland (more per square mile than any state in the Union), and 51.8% of Maryland households contain horse enthusiasts.<sup>3</sup> There are horses in every county in the state.<sup>4</sup> The majority of Maryland riders are trail riders.<sup>5</sup>

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes over 40 breed, interest and discipline associations, plus horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses and race tracks, to the owners of international level competition horses, local sport horses, trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. The owner of Pimlico, Laurel and Rosecroft racetracks is a member, as are vets, tack stores, and other farms, businesses and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018\\_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/02/04/lt-governor-boyd-k-rutherford-maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announce-45-percent-increase-in-maryland-state-parks-attendance-in-2020/>

<sup>3</sup> See attached fact sheet.

<sup>4</sup> According to the 2010 Maryland Equine Census (current numbers are likely about 25% higher, based on current total statewide population): Allegany 350; Baltimore 8950; Carroll 6050; Frederick 7850; Garrett 1500; Harford 6200; Howard 4350; Montgomery 7900; Washington 3750; Anne Arundel 4500; Calvert 1350; Charles 1750; Prince George's 7100; Saint Mary's 2300; Caroline 1300; Cecil 6200; Kent 1200; Queen Anne's 1700; Talbot 1500; Dorchester 350; Somerset 270; Wicomico 1800; Worcester 880

<sup>5</sup> <http://equiery.com/trail-riding-tops-reader-survey/>

enthusiasts throughout the state. As such, we stand for over 30,000 Marylanders. Every Maryland county, without exception, is home to hundreds to thousands of horses. (See footnote 3) There are more horse per square mile in Maryland than in any state in the Union. (See attached fact sheet.)

The horse industry in Maryland is a large, engaged and thriving constituency, and a strong economic engine: 28,000 direct equine related jobs; 16,000 properties occupying over 705,000 acres (almost 10% of Maryland's total land area, and over 25% of Maryland's agricultural land) The industry represents \$2.1 billion in annual economic impact, generating \$78 million in annual tax revenue. Horse industry participants spend \$1 billion dollars annually. There are currently \$73 million dollars in infrastructure investments planned or in the pipeline for public and private equestrian facilities throughout the state. Thus, legislative actions that affect the equine industry have a broad economic effect.

## POSITION

The Horse Council opposes SB 356.

## BACKGROUND

For over 20 years, the Maryland Horse Council has worked to ensure fair use of shared natural resources during hunting season, by seeking to preserve Sundays as the one day of the week when children and adults who are hikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, trail riders and other outdoor enthusiasts could enjoy the outdoors without concern for adverse interactions with hunters. Almost 20 years ago, we helped defeat a number of statewide Sunday hunting bills. Proponents of Sunday hunting then changed tactics, seeking to introduce Sunday hunting on a county-by-county basis, which we also opposed vigorously. Sometimes they were successful; sometimes not. When they were successful, they succeeded in making an already complicated situation more complicated, making it more difficult for others to plan their outings, and for Natural Resources Police to effectively crack down on poachers and irresponsible hunters, which has caused even more negative encounters between irresponsible hunters and other users.<sup>6</sup>

The Maryland Horse Council has proposed reasonable compromises that would still allow fair use of shared natural resources, by cutting off Sunday hunting, where allowed, at 10:30 am. This compromise still gives both hunters and trail riders and others plenty of Sunday access to opportunities. This compromise has been embraced by some legislators, who have praised the Horse Council for this reasonable approach, and it has been adopted by Montgomery, Kent and Wicomico Counties. Now we are facing a bill that would allow all day Sunday hunting in Calvert County on every Sunday of the year, because it covers all species of game birds and game mammals. According to the Maryland hunting season calendar, [https://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/Documents/Hunting\\_Seasons\\_Calendar.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/Documents/Hunting_Seasons_Calendar.pdf), there is an open season for at least one species on any day of the year. Coyote, groundhog and nutria are literally year-round. This bill does nothing to improve the situation for Natural Resources Police and continues to infringe on the fair rights of other users of our shared natural resources in Maryland.

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<sup>6</sup> In a 2016 Maryland Horse Council survey, 35% of respondents reported "adverse incidents" with hunters while trail riding, ranging from rudeness to deliberate attempts to spook horses, threatening with firearms, and firing of "warning" shots. Significant percentages of DNR's survey respondents also reported problems when encountering hunters.

The issue of recreational Sunday hunting is certainly a fraught one. In a November 2018 independent Gonzales statewide poll, the vast majority of respondents opposed Sunday hunting:

SUNDAY HUNTING Oppose 68.9%; Favor 21.9%

Breakdown:

Strongly Favor 13.5%

Somewhat Favor 8.4%

Somewhat Oppose 15.4%

Strongly Oppose 53.5%

These majorities opposed to Sunday hunting are true in Baltimore Metro, Washington Metro AND Rural areas. Rural Maryland opposed Sunday hunting 60.5% vs 34.1% in favor. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded. (See footnote 1.) This bill directly contravenes that clear public opinion by **authorizing DNR to allow all day hunting on all 52 Sundays of the year in Calvert**. This would be a tectonic shift for **Calvert, which currently has only nine Sundays open (for deer hunting) - and only on private land**.

It is important to make clear that the Horse Council is not opposed to hunting. Many of our members are hunters of deer, other game mammals and game birds. We just want to ensure that everyone has a safe option for enjoyment of the outdoors, especially in this time of COVID. The COVID pandemic has dramatically increased the level of outdoor activity and use of natural resources. DNR recently announced, for example, that 2020 State Park attendance increased by 45% to 21.5 million visitors. **Lt. Governor Rutherford stated: "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live, work, and play, more and more Marylanders are finding affordable, socially-distant, and family-friendly recreation opportunities at our parks and public lands,"** (See footnote 2.) Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, and are unaware that they may encounter hunters in the woods. Now is not the time to roll the dice and increase the chances of potential adverse interactions between hunters and members of the public who are relatively new to the outdoors..

It is also sometimes argued that recreational hunters need Sundays because they have other things to do on Saturdays - a situation that plainly applies to most of Maryland's families who use outdoor resources, be they hunters, birdwatchers, dog walkers, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and trail riders. So why should one group get special consideration? Where is the balancing of the public good? The number of licensed hunters in Maryland, fewer than 100,000, pales in comparison to the state's overall population of about 6 million. According to DNR's survey, only 8% of the general population has hunted in the last two years, and 84% has never hunted. Compare that with the 24% who reported making frequent or occasional trips specifically to view and experience wildlife in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes. (See footnote 1.)

In the Horse Council's statewide survey on Sunday hunting, 68% of respondents ride on trails on public or private land one or more days a week. And, perhaps most significantly, 85% said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.

This bill would authorize Sunday hunting on both public and private land. We of course recognize that private land owners have some right to decide what uses they want to allow on their land. But such rights have never been absolute, as any review of zoning and land use rules

can plainly establish. And, as a practical matter the public/private land distinction affords little relief since public and private tracts are often relatively small, non-contiguous, intertwined and rarely well-marked. In our survey, referenced above, 56% of respondents said they ride on trails that cross both public and private land.

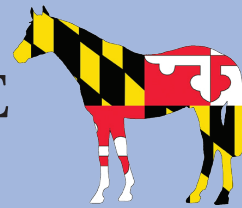
#### CONCLUSION

We urge the Committee to give SB 356 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryland Horse Council  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)



# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY



Thoroughbred & Standardbred horse racing & breeding ♦ trail riding ♦ steeplechase ♦ sport horse competitions ♦ rodeo ♦ carriage driving ♦ therapy programs ♦ recreation ♦ rescue and more

## A Dynamic Agricultural Entity

# 705,000 ACRES



25% of the State's agricultural land

Pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Chesapeake Bay from harmful runoff

10% of Maryland land



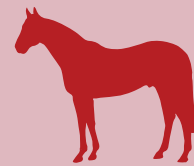
\$80,000,000 on feed, hay and straw

88,000 equine acres preserved forever as farmland



## Number of Horses in Maryland

# 101,457



Horses in Maryland - making MD the number one state in terms of the number of horses per square mile!

10.5 horses per square mile!

# 200

Equine Orgs. Statewide

# 16,000

Horse Farms & Stables

# 35

different equine disciplines

# 40

 breeds

## Integral to the State's Economy



# \$2.1 Billion

Economic Impact



# \$78m

 in tax revenue

# 28,000

 industry jobs

# \$1B

 spent by participants

## A Global Equine Identity



51.8% of households in MD contain horse enthusiasts



10,000 Youths served by MD's Educational Programs

1,500 4H Horse Projects

765 Licensed Riding & Boarding Stables

55 High School Interscholastic Teams

22 Pony Clubs

12 College Equine Teams & Clubs

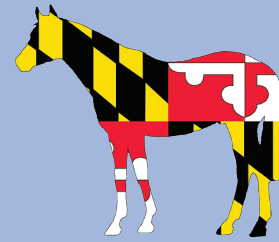


MD is home to International gems:

Triple Crown Race - the Preakness since 1875

International 5-Star at Fair Hill in 2020

# THE MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT



## The Racing Sector



Adds **\$365 million** in value to the state economy



Racing Sector Total Economic Impact of:  
**\$572 million**



Supports **5,214 jobs**

## The Competition Sector

Competition Sector Total Economic Impact of:

**\$270 million**



Supports **3,346 jobs**



Adds **\$162 million** in value to the state economy



## The Recreation Sector



Supports **4,971 jobs**



Adds **\$234 million** in value to the state economy

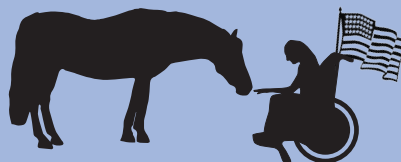
Recreation Sector Total Economic Impact of:  
**\$382 million**



## The Equine Therapy Sector



Adds **\$8.4 million** in value to the state economy



**40** Therapeutic Riding Centers Including over a dozen Veterans groups

### Information provided by

The American Horse Council Foundation 2017

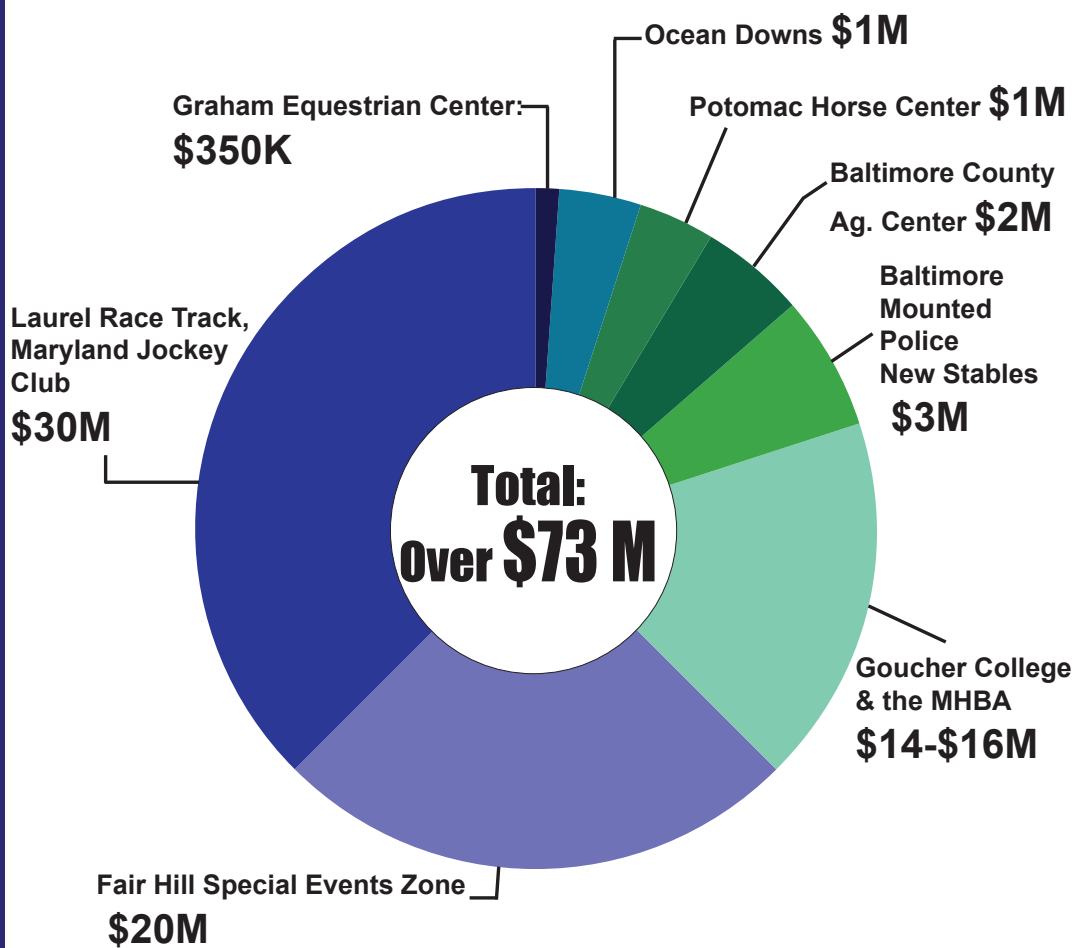
Institute for Governmental Service and Research University of Maryland 2017

Maryland Equine Census, USDA 2010



# Investing in Maryland Horse Industry Infrastructure:

Improvements currently planned or in the pipeline



- \$30M Laurel Race Track, Maryland Jockey Club has spent over \$30M
- \$20M Fair Hill Special Events Zone Phase I, construction starts Fall 2019
- \$14M Goucher College & Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc. Equestrian Center
- \$3M Baltimore Mounted Police New Stables, B&O Railroad Museum
- \$2M Baltimore County Ag. Center Show Ring, under construction
- \$1M Potomac Horse Center
- \$1M Ocean Downs Racing Admin. Building & Testing Barn
- \$350K Graham Equestrian Center

