



# BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

10 February 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 594 – Prohibition on Sale of Wildlife – Local Venison Donation Programs - Application –  
SUPPORT**

Dear Mr. Chair:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for **HB 594 – Prohibition on Sale of Wildlife – Local Venison Donation Programs - Application.**

As introduced, this legislation will modify existing law to permit the inclusion of venison, lawfully harvested from white-tail deer, to be donated to a venison donation program (administered by the county in which the venison was harvested) for processing and distribution to a food bank or food pantry recognized as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Each Member of this Committee knows all too well the difficulties this pandemic has brought on our constituents. Many face reduced incomes; many have lost jobs. Recovery is within sight, but we still have a way to go. Like many of you, we in Harford County have seen an increase in requests for assistance with rent, water and sewer costs, heating, and especially, food. From 01 January to 21 January 2021 alone, through our Food Pantry and Food Bank, we have provided emergency food assistance to 644 households, with a total of 28,403 pounds of food distributed.

Most states, such as neighboring Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia (which in 2019 provided over 23,000 pounds of venison to help feed the hungry) have programs that permit and encourage the donation of legally-acquired venison meat to programs that feed the hungry. Recently, Gettysburg National Park donated 8,000 pounds of venison that was acquired through its deer management program, which also presents another benefit through a program such as this – the damage done to local farm crops and native vegetation.

Your **FAVORABLE** vote on this legislation will not end the issue of hunger in Maryland, but it can be a strong step toward doing so.

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THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT UPON REQUEST

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Glassman', written in a cursive style.

Barry Glassman  
Harford County Executive