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February 16, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Senate Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB 911 - Oppose

Re: House Bill 911 – Natural Resources – Waterfowl Hunting – Susquehanna Flats

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), I submit these comments in opposition to House Bill 911 (“HB 911”) by Delegate Lisanti. HB 911 would limit how someone may legally hunt wild waterfowl in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, a publicly owned natural resource.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. We have a membership of thousands of manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, and shooting ranges. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Maryland sportsmen and women, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

At a time when access to hunting land and areas has created a substantial barrier to entry for new hunters, HB 911 would make matters worse by limiting options and methods of how someone may lawfully hunt wild waterfowl in the waters of the historic Susquehanna Flats. HB 911 would grant preferential treatment to a select group of hunters, rather than granting equal access and opportunity to all of Maryland’s licensed hunters.

The passage of House Bill 911 would erode Maryland’s strong hunting heritage by limiting the public’s use of this cherished natural resource. There is no scientific reason to prohibit certain types of hunting in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, and it is for these reasons that the National Shooting Sports Foundation opposes House Bill 911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. W. Santos", is written over the typed name.

Trevor W. Santos