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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

House Bill 1134 – Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Cross-file: **SB 318**

House Environment and Transportation Committee, February 26, 2021

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce **House Bill 1143** – Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights. This bill would affirm the importance of fishing and hunting to Maryland’s cultural and social heritage and economy. The bill also codifies the intent of the General Assembly that Marylanders have a right to fish and hunt in accordance with regulations and restrictions under laws enacted by the General Assembly.

As co-chair of the Maryland Legislative Sportsman’s Caucus, I have seen the importance of responsible fishing and hunting in our State. I believe that we need to protect and expand the rights of Marylanders to fish and hunt in our State. Passage of this bill would support the hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who fish and hunt, and the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity that fishing and hunting generate in our State each year.

Reasonable regulation of fishing and hunting is necessary to preserve our environment for future generations to enjoy, and should be balanced with the rights of our residents. This legislation recognizes the General Assembly’s role in protecting this balance.

This bill is the cross-file to SB 318, which is identical to Senate Bill 86 that passed in the Finance Committee and on the Senate Floor in the 2020 Legislative Session.

I respectfully request a favorable report on **House Bill 1134**.