



MDWFA
WWW.MDWFA.ORG
3178 Jamaica Point Road
Trappe, Maryland 21673

February 13, 2021

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members of Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Waterfowler's Association (MDWFA) opposes the advancement of Maryland House Bill 911 (HB911). This bill seeks to set aside an area of publicly accessible state water for exclusive use by a sub-group of our hunting community. Hunters employing the specialized hunting technique known as "body booting" hold no more claim to this public resource than any other Marylander with a valid hunting license.

The Susquehanna Flats region of the upper Chesapeake Bay provides a unique and extremely valuable public access opportunity to our waterfowl hunting community. Its vast area of shallow water attracts not only migrating waterfowl but also waterfowl hunters of all types. These users range from individuals hunting from a kayak with a handful of decoys to large groups supported by multiple boats hunting over large spreads. MDWFA asserts that all these users are afforded an equal right to utilize the Flats in their pursuit of recreation regardless of the hunting technique they choose to lawfully employ.

Public access to waterfowl hunting opportunity is a precious resource to our community, and that is directly reflected in the broad spectrum of hunters that choose to spend an icy morning on the Flats each season. To deny a portion of these hunters equal access to that opportunity out of preference for a privileged sub-group would be a direct attack on an already limited public resource. Accordingly, MDWFA requests that your Committee provide an Un-Favorable report of HB911.

Maryland Waterfowlers Association has been serving the waterfowl hunting community for 27 years to ensure that all users of Maryland's resources are treated fairly and equitably. HB 911 does NOT meet those standards and if passed this Bill will do irreparable harm to your constituents that depend on access to the Susquehanna Flats to pursue their sport.

Sincerely,

Dan Everson

Maryland Waterfowler's Association