

# **Support of HB 1279 - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hu**

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: FAV



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 9, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**Re: Support of HB 1279 – Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones - Statewide Authorization and Establishment**

On behalf of our member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1279, legislation that authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt on Sundays on private property statewide and any public land in the State designated for hunting by the Department. It also establishes a uniform statewide safety zone for archery hunters at 50 feet.

Crop damage created by deer is nearly \$50 per acre today. DNR reports show that more than 10% of the deer harvested this hunting season were done on Sundays. However, some counties in the state don't allow Sunday hunting at all. Creating a uniform Sunday hunting policy for the whole state to have these additional Sunday hunting dates will allow the hunters to help address the overpopulation of deer in many parts of the State, most importantly where Sunday hunting isn't allowed now.

**MDFB Policy:** We support uniform Sunday deer hunting laws throughout the state on private land. We support statewide Sunday hunting on private lands.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1279 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

*For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396*

# **HB 1279 - Holtz Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacob Holtz

Position: FAV

TO: Del. Kumar Barve and the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
RE: Support for HB 1279

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members,

I write today to voice my full and unequivocal support for HB 1279. The current state of affairs in our state with regards to Sunday hunting and the archery safety zones is an incredible mess due to the piecemeal way the legislature has addressed the issue over the last decade. It isn't fair to hunters, or to the general public. I believe it is the Department of Natural Resources job to set these rules - not the legislature. While I hope in my heart of hearts that DNR will fully open Sunday hunting on both public and private land throughout the State, I would welcome even the Department's authority to make the decision through the public rulemaking process, regardless of how the Department chooses to use that authority.

Additionally I would point out that since Sunday hunting opportunities have begun to expand and archery safety zones have been decreased in certain counties, there have been ZERO "hunting accidents" related to those changes. Opponents of these changes have always touted "public safety" or ambiguous "fear" of being in the woods during hunting seasons, but the fear is completely unfounded and reflective of individuals who have no concept of what hunting is, how it works, or how incredibly unlikely it is for a member of the general public to be involved in such an accident.

In closing, please give the DNR the ability to manage hunting in the state for seven days out of the week, and please standardize the archery safety zone statewide. I urge you to grant a FAVORABLE report for HB 1279.

Sincerely,

Jacob Holtz

**HB 1279\_mgoldstein\_fav 2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

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March 09, 2022

### **HB 1279 - SUPPORT**

Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones - Statewide Authorization and Establishment

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation 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 requested, and usually obtained, a variety of exemptions from some of these Sunday activity restrictions from the General Assembly. Secular Maryland supports these requests to reduce or eliminate Sunday activity restrictions. 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 being on every Sunday.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
3838 Early Glow Ln  
Bowie, MD

# **HB1279\_UNF\_Huffman**

Uploaded by: Priscilla Huffman

Position: FAV



TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: #: **HB1279** — Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones Statewide Authorization and Establishment **PLEASE OPPOSE**

Thank you for your service to the State of Maryland.

I am a Baltimore County resident and am very alarmed by the introduction of HB 1279. I believe the below FACTS speak well to the position of many of us in this county who are equestrians.

We are proud that for many years, Baltimore County did not allow Sunday hunting in any form, and we urge you to continue that tradition.

Priscilla Huffman  
35 Cinder Rd  
Timonium, MD 21093  
301-646-4422  
priscillahuffman@verizon.net

**STOP STATEWIDE SUNDAY HUNTING - 52 WEEKS A YEAR AND  
THE SAFETY ZONE FROM BEING REDUCED TO JUST 50 YARDS FROM YOUR  
HOME!**

**HUNTERS ALREADY HAVE 6 DAYS A WEEK, ALL WE WANT IS ONE DAY, SUNDAY, WITHOUT  
THE FEAR OF BEING SHOT WITH A BULLET OR RAZOR SHARP ARROW!  
IMAGINE LOOKING OUT YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW AND SEEING AN ARMED MAN IN  
CAMOUFLAGE UP IN A TREE WITH BINOCULARS JUST 50 YARDS FROM YOUR HOME!**

At a time when so many people are suffering economic hardship, it is beyond sad that this is what some Delegates think our legislators should be wasting their limited time on. It is shameful especially since Delegates were asked to be thoughtful about the bills they choose to put forward during this pandemic.

**SAY NO TO REDUCING THE SAFETY ZONES AND YEAR ROUND SUNDAY HUNTING FAST  
FACTS!**

**FACT:** Our Delegates and Senators we elected will lose their authority to decide about Sunday hunting or Safety Zones in our own counties. We elected them, not DNR! Since some counties have successfully defeated Sunday Hunting and Safety Zone Reductions year after year, this is an **underhanded** way to circumvent the voting power of Maryland citizens!

**FACT:** 98% of Maryland residents are not hunters. This is for less than 2% of all Marylanders and it is not fair or right.

**FACT:** This bill would allow state-wide, year round, Sunday hunting in every county in the state on private as well as public land, it will allow hunting on all 52 Sundays of the year by repealing every subsection of existing bill. Since there is always something in season throughout the year, this means that hunting could now be allowed 365 days of the year.

**FACT:** When asked in a Gonzales Poll, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure, (i.e.: your home, garage, barn, etc.) and about

Sunday Hunting. Marylanders overwhelmingly throughout the state opposed reducing the safety zone and they do not want Sunday Hunting!

**FACT:** Children have been confined enough during the pandemic and now they back in school Monday to Friday. They will lose the freedom of playing safely outside in the woods on Sundays all year long too!

**FACT:** Crossbow speeds are measured in feet-per-second (FPS). When an archery crossbow is said to shoot at 450 FPS, that means the arrow will travel 450 feet or 150 yards in the span of just one second. Here are just a few Crossbows and their FSP's: Scorpyd Aculeus 460 fps, TenPoint Nitro X 440 fps, Ravin R20 430 fps, Barnett Predator 430 fps. So 50 or even 100 yards is just not safe!

**FACT:** Razor Sharp Arrows do not stop at private property lines, endangering you on your own property and on public lands, which adjoin private properties! Every year hunters accidentally shoot bullets and arrows killing innocent people and their pets.

**FACT:** Farmers can kill deer all year long including all Sundays, 365 days a year under a Deer Management Permit. So these bills are just a backdoor way of taking away our Sundays for recreational sport hunting.

**FACT:** This bill only benefits hunters for their convenience, not to effectively manage the deer population since counties who already added Sunday hunting and reduced safety zones have failed to result in any significant reduction of deer.

**FACT:** For every \$1.00 hunters generate, Wildlife watchers generate \$3.00 for the economy.

**FACT:** Our Delegates and Senators we elected are supposed to protect us, not cater to the hunting industry!

**Ltr 3-7-22 MD House Bill 1279-pdf.pdf**

Uploaded by: Allan Noble

Position: UNF



[www.epicmontgomery.org](http://www.epicmontgomery.org)

PO Box 69  
Boyds, MD 20841

Board of Directors

March 7, 2022

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Maryland House Committee on the Environment and Transportation  
Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 1279; Hearing Date, March 9, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC) in opposition to House Bill 1279 which we understand will be up for hearing on March 9. By way of introduction, EPIC is a Section 501(c)3 Maryland charitable corporation. Our mission is to be a voice on behalf of the Montgomery County equestrian community and other interested parties to conserve land for equestrian purposes and increase equestrian access to private and public lands. For more information on EPIC see our website at [epicmontgomery.org](http://epicmontgomery.org).

We strongly oppose this bill because it would further limit safe access to public and private lands. It would allow hunting all day on every Sunday throughout Maryland. As matters now stand, horseback riders, bikers and hikers have less and less opportunity to pursue their interests without being exposed to the dangers of hunting. This bill would further restrict the limited access that we have.

In Montgomery County we have worked hard with Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo to forge a compromise among equestrians, farmers and hunters to allow deer hunting on a number of Sundays until 10:30 AM. This recently passed legislation gives hunters an extra morning while leaving the rest of the day available for other outdoor activities. It has worked well. The passage of House Bill 1279 would rescind this legislation.

We ask that you please reject this bill. If you need more information on EPIC's position please feel free to call or write me. Thank you very much for considering our position.

Allan Noble  
President  
240-463-7069

# **HB1279\_UNF\_Driskell**

Uploaded by: Angelica Driskell

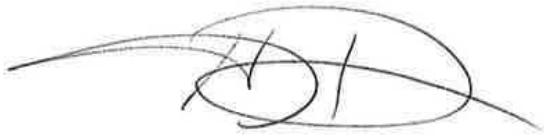
Position: UNF

Below you will find my input to be presented in opposition of the Bill #: HB1279. Please SAY NO to ALL SUNDAYS hunting legislation in the works in Maryland General Assembly.

- (1) The Bill #: HB1279 — Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones Statewide Authorization and Establishment.
- (2) Angelica Driskell
- (3) [ainfozino@gmail.com](mailto:ainfozino@gmail.com)
- (4) 708 Ridge Ave, Mount Airy, MD 20117
- (5) **UNFAVORABLE**
- (6) I strongly oppose this bill that would allow ALL SUNDAYS TO BE HUNTING DAYS on public and private lands. This would mean that NO day will be sacred and safe for those of us that enjoy outside activities like walking and bird watching and horseback riding without the fear of nearby hunters posing a risk to our safety and enjoyment of wildlife at rest. We are ALL entitled to have a day to pursue activities that bring us joy and happiness in a peaceful environment, free from harm, so PLEASE DO NOT PASS this bill!

**Please reply to this email and confirm that this input has been received and presented to the committee.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AD', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Angelica Driskell

# **Final HB1279 Written Testimony-Opposition.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ann Selnick

Position: UNF



To: The Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Ann Selnick, Ellicott City  
Submitted: 3/7/22

Subject: Opposition to HB1279-Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones-Statewide Authorization and Establishment

My family moved to Howard County in 1989. In the 33 years that I have lived in Howard County, five bills have been introduced attempting to either add Sunday Hunting or reduce the size of the archery safety zone. **All five bills failed.** Whenever a Statewide bill of this nature has been introduced that would include Howard County, residents of Howard County have repeatedly voiced opposition.

With less than 1% of HoCo residents applying for hunting licenses annually, it's obvious that HoCo residents either oppose or are **not** interested in hunting. It's an unrealistic assumption that HoCo residents would support any additional hunting privileges to accommodate 1% of the population.

Hunting regulations cannot be "one size fits all", for reasons of population density.

For example, I noted that the sponsors of HB1279 represent the following Counties:

<b>County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Residents per sq mile/ Population Density</b>
Cecil	103,725	250
Allegany	68,106	160
Harford	260,924	597
Carroll	172,891	380
<b>By Comparison-</b>		
<b>Howard Co.</b>	<b>328,200</b>	<b>1,300 Residents per sq mile</b>
<b>Ellicott City</b>		<b>2,500</b>
<b>Columbia</b>		<b>3,251</b>

Howard County is one of the smallest Counties in MD by land area and has experienced considerable growth over the past two decades. Open space (this includes our parks) in HoCo is surrounded by schools, sports complexes, housing developments, shopping centers, business parks, etc. If asked to list a lifestyle complaint about living in HoCo it would typically be 'over developed'. The thought that a hunter with a crossbow would be allowed within 50 yards of a structure is frightening, especially when you consider that an arrow can travel 450 feet in just one second. Any further reduction of the safety zone significantly increases the possibility of a tragic accident.

Finally, HB1279 would give DNR the complete authority to force Sunday Hunting and a reduction of the safety zone without input from the elected representatives of HoCo. It's unacceptable to cede this power to DNR. Hunters already have 6 days a week, that's enough!

HB1279 is a bad proposal. Please do not move this Bill forward in any form.

# **HB1279\_UNF\_SollnerWebb**

Uploaded by: Barbara Sollner-Webb

Position: UNF

Hello! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, a long-time member of the Executive Board of Trail Riders of Today (or TROT for short), a 40-plus year old group of equestrians that has numbered over 1000 in some years, who all enjoy getting out on Maryland's gorgeous trails and appreciating the state's beauty. And it is quite hard to be out enjoying the state's parks when one is in fear of being shot by an errant bullet or arrow. TROT has taken numerous membership surveys over the years and invariably our membership is impressible united in not wanting to have taken away that one day each week when we can safely ride throughout the fall, winter and spring, without fear of being shot at. The other six days per week hunting is already permitted in most locations (except immediately abutting residences).

I personally have been shot at three times while out riding my horse, always when riding on land where hunting was not permitted but the bullet or arrow fired from neighboring land where hunting was permitted, presumably by some hunter who mistook my white riding helmet or my horse for a 5-point buck. It most definitely is not fun to be shot at – actually, a very scary experience.

Indeed, you colleague, Delegate Ben Barnes has recounted to me about his hiking in an area park and getting shot at, also fired by someone from abutting land, and he said he did not enjoy the experiences one bit either.

Notably, bullets and arrows do not respect property boundaries.

I know you have received a large amount of very eloquent and well-researched testimony from many outdoor enthusiasts who do not want their one safe day per week taken away for the benefit of the less than 2% of the population who are hunters, so I will not recount their facts and figures. Let me just beg you to keep what is left of Sundays safe for the 98-plus percent of residents who are not hunters to be out and enjoy nature safely.

**Enid Feinberg Oppose HB1279.pdf**

Uploaded by: Enid Feinberg

Position: UNF

Enid Feinberg, Phoenix, MD 21131 - **I am very OPPOSED to HB 1279**

I want to thank this committee for the opportunity to explain why you should vote no for HB 1279.

First, I want to say we are just as tired of these Sunday Hunting and Safety Zone bills as you are, but that is not a good enough reason to pass such a bad bill especially when only 2% of Marylanders are hunters

I have been a member of multiple Maryland DNR Deer Stakeholders Groups including the current one for the next 15 year Deer Management Plan. I can tell you there is **no true benefit from reducing the safety zone or increasing Sunday hunting for deer population control.**

**There are other non-lethal ways to manage the deer population reproduction that are not being utilized because MD DNR only profits from the sale of hunting licenses.**

If Sunday and safety zone reductions were so valuable for managing the deer, you should have already seen a much greater harvest, not a relative flat line as illustrated **on the graph I have included**, even with all the added Sundays, shorter safety zones and more firearm days.

There are so many bad points that I will just start with the huge **mistake of taking away the authority of our Delegates and Senators we elected and giving it to DNR.**

Deer Management bills were passed so farmers, etc. could kill deer 365 days a year including all Sundays. So there is no true benefit from this recreational Sunday hunting bill for deer population control.

The reality is there is already enough hunting days. According to the most recent Quality Deer Management Report. Maryland hunters spent an average of 15 days afield in pursuit of deer.

**Then after getting even more days including Sundays in some counties, THEY USED EVEN LESS. That statistic dropped to just 14 days.**

Hunters in Maryland already can hunt for over 20 weeks, more than 130 days including 22 Saturdays, and a lot of Sundays. And what do they use just an average of 14 days!!

**SO WHY GIVE THEM MORE SUNDAYS when they don't use the days they already have.**

As stated in the most recent US Fish & Wildlife report, people want to photograph, observe and feed a wide variety of animals including WATERFOWL, Bear, Butterflies, Eagles and YES EVEN DEER!

Maryland needs to STOP wasting time trying to expand Sunday hunting and focus on capitalizing on this increasing tourism market, especially since the pandemic boosted outdoor recreation. Marylanders, not only don't want Sunday Hunting, they stated it could potentially alter their recreational plans costing Maryland millions in revenue!

I can say this with confidence because I have worked in tourism marketing in New York for over 30 years including many years with Forbes even while continuing to live in Baltimore County.

For every \$1.00 dollar hunters generate, **Wildlife Watchers generate \$3.00 dollars!** So what you are being told about the economic impact of adding Sunday Hunting is PURE FANTASY!

And what is most important **Marylanders Do Not Want Sunday Hunting or Safety Zones Reduced!**

Baltimore County residents have successfully fought to not allow Sunday Hunting or have our safety zone reduced and we do not want a statewide bill to circumvent our counties authority.

**We have to live with your decision for years to come. I implore you to do what is fair and right and just give us one day a week, Sunday and don't reduce our safety zone!**

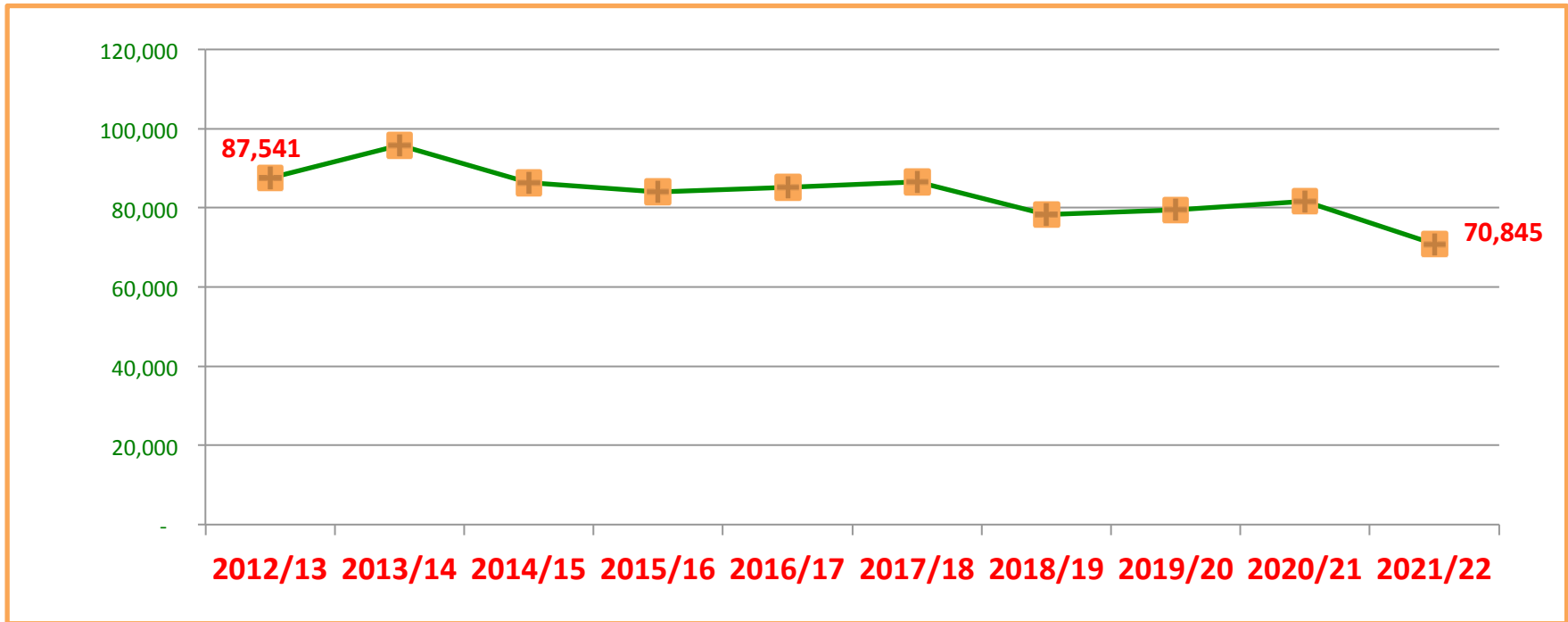
**PLEASE don't be fooled! VOTE NAY ON HB 1279** Thank you for your time and attention, Enid Feinberg

# DEER HARVESTED BY YEAR\*

Sunday Hunting Days & Shorter Safety Zones

Already Added in Maryland Over the Past 10 Years

**HAVE FAILED TO INCREASE the TOTAL AMOUNT of DEER KILLED!**



In fact, if Sunday Hunting and Shorter Safety Zones are supposed to be so critical for managing deer, then you should have already seen a much greater harvest, not a declining comparative flat line!

This has not happened, because hunters already have more than enough days they aren't even using now. They have more Archery, Muzzleloader, Firearm and just added Primitive Weapon Hunting Days then they did 10 years ago!

**HB1279 ONLY Benefits Recreational Hunters who want to hunt on Sundays in our neighborhoods and parks!**

**Please don't make the mistake of expanding it, when it clearly is not working, Vote NO for HB1279!**

\*Data from the Maryland Department Of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage's Annual Deer Harvest Reports

**written testimony AGAINST HB1279 Sunday Hunting.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jacquie cowan

Position: UNF



# ***Riding to a Different Beat***

1218 Sunrise Beach Rd \* Crownsville, Md. 21032

Contact: Jacquie Cowan 410-923-6157 \* jacquiecowan@comcast.net

**All breeds, gaits, riding styles and experience are welcome**

Reference: **In OPPOSITION of HB 1279** ... to allow Hunting of all species during all seasons on all Sundays of the year

To: The House Committee on Environment and Transportation

CC: Anne Arundel County Delegation

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, submitted Monday, March 7, 2022

I am writing to you on behalf of our 300+ family memberships. We are all trail riders. I am a gaited horsemanship instructor; and also teach trail etiquette, trail safety and trail horsemanship. Trail riding is a skill to be developed, and a good trail horse is a well trained animal. I am retired from 15 years with TROTSAR, Mounted (human) Search and Rescue (on horseback), with whom I was an evaluator and certified search technician

Sunday Hunting was first introduced in the 1990's when the deer population was so great it needed strong management to reduce the herds.. That is no longer the case as the numbers have dropped and is being managed so not to get too low. The hunting world is now looking to expand their weekend opportunities as recreational. This has been a long standing battle between the 3% or less hunting population and the rest of Marylanders who wish to enjoy our beautiful Maryland outdoors. This is not an anti-hunting campaign; it has always been about equitable, shared safe use of the woods, trails and fields by all.

Those in favor of HB 1279 say they need more time on weekends to hunt because they work, plus have family and community obligations. Well, so do the majority of other Marylanders. Our Club members and other trail riders also work, so the weekend is when they can spend quality time with their horses and families. Over the years, our Club along with other trail groups, scheduled their organized trail rides during traditional hunting seasons on Sunday to avoid any conflict. As the number of Sundays to be hunted has increased with the passage of more bills, that has become more difficult to do.

Horse Boarding facilities thrive on safe access to trails around and from their facility for their clientele. Not every horse rider owns a trailer, so they do not have the option to take their horse away from home or their boarding facility to ride "safe" public lands. Those parks may not be fully safe because many of the trails run adjacent to or across private property easements that can be hunted.

IN 2014, the Anne Arundel County Delegation withdrew their bill to increase the number of Sundays that could be hunted after listening to testimony from county equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts. There are few public trails in the County. There is an extensive network of established trails that criss-cross public easements, green spaces and private properties. Non-horse property owners also called for one quiet day of the weekend to enjoy their own backyards without hunting around them.

I recently shared with you in an email my experiences with disrespectful hunters who endangered our lives: my neighbor's bedroom window was shattered by a poacher's shots at night, and shots were fired over my riding group's heads on the C&O Canal Towpath trail (Feb. 7, 2022 in reference to interaction between hunters and equestrians) The first mission my Search and Rescue Team was on after I became an active member was to locate a hunter who had not arrived back home. He was found passed out at the bottom of a tree surrounded by beer cans because he had neglected to secure himself in his tree stand. There are so many more stories to be told of similar instances and even horses injured and killed while grazing in their own fields. Those in favor of the bill may argue that is not true and there is a lack of documented reports. The discrepancy exists because many of these occurrences are not reported, or in my case, not recorded. Or they are reported to local police departments because they occurred on private property, backyards, farm fields, and horse pastures.

--- continued ---

***The Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club invites enthusiasts of all breeds and riding disciplines to join in our fun. Membership benefits include Newsletters with Classifieds \* Free Monthly Trail Rides \* Friendly Help \* Parties \* Camping \* Clinics \* Parades \* Demonstrations \* Good Friends \* and whatever our members want to plan to do. Membership is required for most Club events, and runs for a full year from the time you join.***

**Proud supporting member of Maryland Horse Council (MHC) and Friends of the Sound Horse (FOSH)**





## ***Riding to a Different Beat ...***

page 2, *Written testimony against Sunday Hunting and HB 1279*

The fear is not just about being shot. It is about these run-ins with hunters. Besides our own personal discomfort, the horse is a flight animal, so when they are frightened, their natural instinct is to run, which further endangers the rider or handler. Whether the fear is real or perceived, it does keep folks from venturing out and enjoying their past-times. Would you want to take your grandchildren for a walk in the woods if there might be hunting going on — with this bill and the current mish-mash of possible Sundays to be hunted, you might not even know it!

Safe, reliable trail horses are not just born. Like any athlete, it takes aptitude, conditioning and years of training on the trail. Rider skills are developed as well through hours of practice on the trail. Competitive challenges like endurance riding require hours every week to develop and maintain the horse and rider competitive edge. With this bill allowing hunting on all 365 days of the year, how will we be able to develop our safe trail horses and sensible trail riders.

Unfortunately, due to covid and health concerns, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) and its sponsors will not be holding our annual Maryland Horse Legislative Day again this year in Annapolis. In lieu of that, I believe you have all received a video from the MHIB depicting the richness of Maryland's equine community and its \$2.1 billion impact on our State's economy. In case you missed it, here is the link [Maryland Horse Industry Day 2022 - YouTube](#)

I suspect many of you have not had the opportunity to take a trail ride on horseback. Here is another link so you can ride along with a few of my Chesapeake friends to experience the peace and tranquility that we wish so desperately to protect: [https://youtu.be/Q3GYMy\\_mnAY](https://youtu.be/Q3GYMy_mnAY)

**HB 1279 proposes to make all Sundays of the year open to hunting by including all species and seasons on both public and private lands. This means all seven days of the week, 52 weeks and all 365 days of the year can be hunted.** If you allow this to go through, when can the rest of us enjoy our Maryland Outdoors (or even our own backyard)?

**Please, vote no for HB 1279 and save Sundays for the 97% of Maryland's population who do not have hunting licenses.** I take my request a step further, please consider all the testimonies opposing hunting on Sundays when other bills come before you to expand these hunting days and opportunities for such a small percentage of Maryland citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter of equitable, shared use of our great Maryland outdoors. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacquie Cowan

410-215-4979 / [jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)

Founding Member and Editor, Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club

Anne Arundel County Coordinator, Trail Riders of Today (TROT)

Association Representative, The Maryland Horse Council

Event Manager, Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer for the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center

Member At Large, League of Maryland Horsemen

***The Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club invites enthusiasts of all breeds and riding disciplines to join in our fun. Membership benefits include Newsletters with Classifieds \* Free Monthly Trail Rides \* Friendly Help \* Parties \* Camping \* Clinics \* Parades \* Demonstrations \* Good Friends \* and whatever our members want to plan to do. Membership is required for most Club events, and runs for a full year from the time you join.***

**Proud supporting member of Maryland Horse Council (MHC) and Friends of the Sound Horse (FOSH)**

# **HB1279\_UNF\_DriskellJ**

Uploaded by: James Driskell

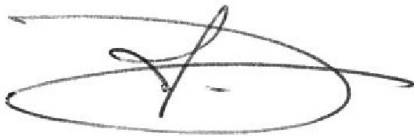
Position: UNF

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- (1) The Bill #: HB1279 — Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones Statewide Authorization and Establishment.
- (2) James Driskell
- (3) [ainfozino@gmail.com](mailto:ainfozino@gmail.com)
- (4) 708 Ridge Ave, Mount Airy, MD 20117
- (5) **UNFAVORABLE**
- (6) I strongly oppose this bill that would allow ALL SUNDAYS TO BE HUNTING DAYS on public and private lands. This would mean that NO day will be sacred and safe for those of us that enjoy outside activities like walking and bird watching and horseback riding without the fear of nearby hunters posing a risk to our safety and enjoyment of wildlife at rest. We are ALL entitled to have a day to pursue activities that bring us joy and happiness in a peaceful environment, free from harm, so PLEASE DO NOT PASS this bill!

**Please reply to this email and confirm that this input has been received and presented to the committee.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Driskell', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

James Driskell

**hunting accident report 2007-2021.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

# Excerpts from 15 years of DNR's Annual Hunting Accident Reports

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/pages/hunting-incident-reports.aspx>

## 2021

— A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No charges were filed against the shooter.

## 2020

--- A Frederick County resident observed damage to the exterior of their residence, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. While investigating officers located no hunting activity in the area, the incident did occur during the end of spring turkey season. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County resident observed damage to their vehicle's windshield, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting and there were reports of numerous shots leading up to the incident. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County waterfowl hunter, returning from a hunt, observed damage to their parked vehicle's tailgate, which consisted of a rifle round lodged into the plastic molding of said tailgate. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A 17 year-old Wicomico County Waterfowl Hunter was underway in a vessel with other hunters when they were struck with shotgun pellets. Investigation revealed that other members of the victim's hunting party were on shore and approximately 50-60 yards away when a 20 year-old fired a shot towards the victim's vessel in an alleged attempt to scare him and his hunting party. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries. Natural resources / criminal charges were filed against the shooter in this incident.

— A 14 year-old Somerset County Turkey Hunter (Firearms - Junior Hunt Days) was on foot and stalking turkeys with other juvenile hunters and under adult supervision. As the juveniles were walking 50-70 yards apart, under thick tree cover and out of sight from one another, a 14-year old shooter observed a turkey and fired their shotgun twice at said game. As a result, shotgun pellets ultimately struck the victim. The shooter was not aware that the victim was in the background. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

## 2019

---- A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing

their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

--- An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

---- A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage.

## 2018

No relevant reports

## 2017

--- A 26 year old Talbot County deer hunter (firearms season) shot at two deer with 12 gauge shotgun slugs. The first deer was struck and ran 40 yards before collapsing, the second deer was shot at but the first slug went over its back, the second shot dropped the deer in the location where it was standing. Apparently the slug that missed struck an occupied residence just to one side of the front door. Upon a 911 call a sheriff's department deputy had searched and located the lone hunter. After an investigation by NRP the hunter was charged with negligent hunting and discharging a firearm within the safety zone. Property damage only

--- An unknown Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) sent a 7mm projectile through the side of a residence, through the bedroom wall, through a wooden dresser, then through a closet wall before coming to rest in a pile of towels in the closet. Two people were in the bedroom at the time but neither was injured. A search of nearby farms was unsuccessful in locating any hunter(s). Property damage only

--- A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (late firearms season) took two shots at a deer with a 30/30 rifle toward the direction of a neighboring farm. One of the shots (both of which missed the deer) struck a dining room window of the adjacent residence and stopped, being found on the windowsill. During the investigation it was determined that the round that struck the window had ricocheted off of the ground. The distance from the shooter to the house was 398 yards.

(DNR's on-line annual report for 2017 is identical to DNR'S 2016's report – the 2016 appears to be missing)

## 2015

--- A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey. Non-Fatal

## 2014

--- A 50 year old Carroll County Fox Hunter sent a 6mm rifle round through a patio glass door. The round went through a vinyl garden hose and a plastic lawn chair before going through the door and striking a kitchen chair. The homeowner was the only occupant in the residence at the time and they were in bed sleeping.

--- A 52 year old Kent County Turkey Hunter (Spring Season) took two shots at a gobbler out in an open field. The second shot was at the bird while in flight. One pellet struck the storm door of an adjacent house causing the glass to shatter. The homeowner was present in the home at the time.

## 2013

--- A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit

--- A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles.

--- A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone ---discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandelier in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

--- A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away. Property Damage Only

--- A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game)

## 2012

--- A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

--- A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the homeowner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation.

## 2011

--- A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard. Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

--- A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass.

--- A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

--- A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys 40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodged in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a redmark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

## 2010

--- During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that



day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

--- A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.

--- A 53 year old Howard County deer hunter was shot by his 36 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a standing deer with a .12 gauge slug in an open field at approximately 243 yards. The bullet missed the deer, striking the victim sitting in a wooden ground blind at the opposite end of the field. The victim received injuries to his right arm and hand. Non Fatal. Charges pending an investigation

--- A 46 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunting was shot by his 25 year old hunting companion. With both subjects participating in a deer drive, the shooter shot at a running deer twice with a .20 gauge shotgun slug. A slug traveled 70 yards, striking the victim positioned at the opposite end of the field in the left leg. Non Fatal. Negligent Hunting charges pending.

--- A 55 year old Dorchester County rabbit hunter was shot by his 55 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a running rabbit with a .20 gauge shotgun in a thicket. The shot pellets traveled approximately 30 to 40 feet through the thicket striking the victim. The victim received injuries to the right side of his head, neck, eye, arm and left

--- A Frederick County garage window was struck by a bullet from an unknown source. An investigation could not recover the projectile nor related evidence. This incident occurred during the firearm's deer season.

## 2009

--- A 57 year-old goose hunter in Kent County was shot by another hunter while attempting to retrieve a wounded goose. The victim received a minor wound to the face from a shotgun pellet which deflected off the water striking the victim.

--- A window was broken at an occupied daycare facility from a slug fired by a shotgun in Howard County. Several hunters were found in the area and interviewed by several police agencies. Negligent hunting charges were filed, but the States Attorney elected not to prosecute due to insufficient evidence.

--- A window in a house was struck and broken by a sabot round fired by a deer hunter in Talbot County. The investigation found that in this case, the hunter was not negligent and charges were not filed.

--- While checking vacant buildings, several Frederick County Sheriff Deputy vehicles were struck by shot gun pellets causing minor damage. Several individuals who were hunting quail in the area were located and charges were filed by the States Attorney's office for Reckless Endangerment.

--- A 69 year-old deer hunter in Dorchester County found himself in the middle of a deer drive on a wildlife refuge. After hearing several shots the hunter realized that his shotgun had been struck on the barrel and magazine by lead shot. The shooter was never found or located.

## 2008

— A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

— A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

— A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

## 2007

— A 51 year-old Caroline County quail hunter shot his hunting partner when a quail flew between them. The victim received 4 pellets to his upper body.

— A 54 year-old Talbot County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them and the shooter shot at the deer. The shooter hit the deer and shrapnel from the slug hit the victim in the hand causing minor injuries.

— A 59 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them. The victim was below field level, climbing a hill out of site of the shooter. He received neck injuries.

— A 38 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the shoulder by his 16 year-old hunting partner when the victim was moving through bushes and mistaken for game. Victim was not wearing fluorescent orange.

— A 64 year-old Charles County Turkey hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the victim started to retrieve a turkey and was mistaken for another turkey by the shooter. Victim received 4 pellet wounds to various parts of the body.

## INCIDENTS -- NOT REPORTED IN DNR ACCIDENT REPORTS (2016 to present)– that were recorded in other news sources:

### **--- MD: Woman attempting to shoot groundhog accidentally hits man fishing at park**

May 28, 2019

The Maryland Natural Resource Police are investigating an incident of a bullet that grazed a man in the shoulder on Sunday afternoon.

According to police, a 61-year-old woman was shooting a groundhog in her backyard, which borders the Smithsburg Lions Community Park.

The woman missed and the bullet ricocheted across the water and struck a 28-year-old man who was fishing.

Officials said there doesn't seem to be any issues with limitation, however the shooter is responsible for anything in background, like in this case, the park....

--- **Fatality** : Maryland Natural Resources police were investigating a fatal hunting accident in Frederick County on Saturday, the opening day of deer season for firearms. Police said the rifle of a first-time hunter from Altadena, Calif., was accidentally discharged while he was deer hunting on private property on Eylers Valley Flint Road near Thurmont. Police identified the victim as Vincent Cavallo, 32.

Cavallo and his uncle were hunting in separate areas of the property when the uncle heard a gunshot. He went to check on his nephew and found him dead, DNR police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said. Police were called to the scene at 9:24 a.m.

Police said the victim is believed to have slipped or dropped the gun and it discharged, hitting him in the head. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Natural Resources police were assisted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department in the investigation.

[lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com](mailto:lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com)

--- Author: Scott Broom

Published: 6:07 PM EDT October 24, 2016

The mystery is still not solved after an 87-year old man was apparently struck (ed. note: in the head) by a shotgun pellet or bullet fragment while walking on his property in rural Montgomery County Saturday. Authorities suspect a hunting accident, but they don't know who fired the shot or from where. Residents and hunters say they are deeply concerned by the incident. The victim's property is on the boundary of the Patuxent River State Park where hunting with firearms is permitted. Hunters may not fire guns within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling without a residents' permission, even if the hunter is on another property or public land nearby. Maryland averages 2-3 hunting accidents involving firearms annually. The victim is almost always a hunter.

NOTE: see more of this episode at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html)

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wusa9.com/amp/article/news/local/mystery-surrounds-shooting-of-elderly-md-man-walking-home/65-340868641>

--- **Fatality**: Oct 11, 2015 - WASHINGTON — A 75-year-old huntsman was fatally *shot during* a hunting trip Saturday in Queen Anne's County, ... *Marvin Bowen Coppage*, a resident of *Henderson*, was hired to lead a guided *pheasant and chukar* hunt.

--- 2014 A mountain biker was peppered by bird shot while riding his bike in the Tuckahoe State Park on Maryland's Eastern (related by Tuckahoe park staff) knowledge)

Citizen report:

Date: March 15, 2019 at 9:15:38 AM EDT

To: <mwc.dnr@maryland.gov>, <animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov>, <hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Hunting Violation in Western Howard County

Hello,

I want to report a hunting violation that I encountered yesterday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Woodbine parcel of the Patuxent State Park.

I was in the park on horseback and one or two people began shooting firearms near the trail head that is immediately north of the farm at 4505 Jennings Chapel Road.

I hollered several times so that they could hear that I was there and stop shooting long enough for me to get out of the park. They were shooting between me and the closest way out of the park so my way was totally blocked.

They did not stop shooting even as I hollered and eventually my very sane and experienced horse bolted to try to get away from the noise, which was echoing everywhere.

Luckily I am a strong rider and I did not have a mishap but my horse was badly frightened, as was I, frankly. It was mainly luck that we did not run into a tree or barbed wire or worse.

Once I finally got to the trail head – after picking my way along as close to the edge of the park as I possibly could on the theory they would not fire towards residences – I saw their vehicles and got their license plates. They were both Maryland vehicles, one was 5CC8856 and the other was 5C74853.

I have attached photographs of the vehicles. I also have a photograph of my riding attire yesterday, which included a safety orange saddle pad and a reflective yellow jacket, which I can provide if necessary.

I have been riding in this part of the park for over 15 years and every time I have encountered hunters we have been courteous to one another and respectful of each other's sport and mindful of each other's safety. These people were obviously an exception.

I am happy to discuss further by telephone if necessary.

**testimony - Sunday hunting - yearround - statewide**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF



MARYLAND  
**HORSE**  
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 606 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797  
[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

*One Common Bond: The Horse*  
*One Common Voice: The Horse Council*

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 1279 - Sunday Hunting - Statewide: **OPPOSE**

- ❖ **This bill would allow Sunday hunting year round in every county and jurisdiction in the state. It would**
  - **erase the historic exemption from Sunday hunting in Baltimore, Howard and Prince George's counties and Baltimore City,**
  - **abrogate the time-based compromises worked out by the interested stakeholders in Montgomery, Kent and Wicomico counties,**
  - **apply to private and public land.**
  
- ❖ **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. Even DNR's own 2018 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>
  
- ❖ You may have heard that this bill does not create year round Sunday hunting; that it's really just about deer and turkey. That is incorrect. ***If the goal was to expand Sunday hunting just for deer and Spring turkey, the bill could have adopted the language of Sections 10-410(a)(2) and (a)(6), which specifically govern deer seasons and turkey seasons, respectively. But it does not. It deletes all relevant sections of the statute, except Section 10-410(a)(1), which by its own terms is ALL GAME BIRDS AND MAMMALS.*** Because there is always an open season on at least one game bird or mammal at all times throughout the year, **this bill would allow hunting throughout the state on every Sunday of the year.** For example, crow season is 8/15 - 3/15; the spring turkey season is 4/18 - 5/23. And the coyote, nutria and groundhog seasons are year round. Just because it may be that currently the majority of hunters hunt deer and turkey does not change the **fact** that this bill, if enacted, would allow Sunday hunting for all game birds and mammals into the future, when the interests of hunters in additional or different kinds of prey might increase. The hunting accident report we submitted with this testimony contains reports of accidental shootings during hunting of groundhogs, etc.
  
- ❖ **This bill would infringe on the rights of the general public to enjoy outdoor recreation, the importance of which has received increased attention, including the State Park Investment Commission, a new Office of Outdoor Recreation in DNR, and the**

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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)

**introduction of SB 541, the Great Maryland Outdoors Act. 78% of the Gonzales poll respondents said they 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.**

- ❖ **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> Demand remained strong through 2021. **Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, including the distinctions between private and public lands. Now is not the time to increase general public exposure to possible hunting risks, or to further deter the public from outdoor recreation. We have separately submitted with this testimony a report of hunting incidents from 2007 - 2021, compiled from DNR's own data.**
- ❖ **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. 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 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 enthusiasts throughout the state. 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 (compare that to the \$260 million annual figure for hunters cited in the Fiscal and Policy note). Thus, legislative actions that affect the equine industry have a broad economic effect.

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<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 and a pandemic-driven boom in horse ownership): 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/>

## POSITION

The Horse Council opposes HB 1279.

## 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. About 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 hunters, 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 throughout the state 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.

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 throughout the state.

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. According to DNR, 2020 State Park attendance increased by 45% to 21.5 million visitors. 2021 demand remained strong. **Lt. Governor Rutherford stated: "With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live,**

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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.



***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 equitable access? The number of licensed hunters in Maryland, about 100,000, is less than 2% of the state’s population of about 6 million. The number of licensed resident hunters is reportedly 9th lowest among all the states.<sup>7</sup> Compare that with the 24% who reported (pre-pandemic) 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 private and public land. We have already pointed out the risks of allowing Sunday hunting on public land when so many new users, unfamiliar with hunting rules and seasons, are taking advantage of outdoor spaces. 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 HB 1279 an unfavorable report.

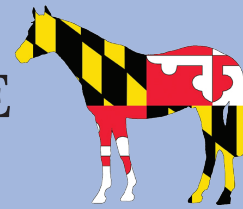
Respectfully submitted,  
Maryland Horse Council  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/maryland-is-the-9-state-with-the-fewest-registered-hunters/ar-AAPKtT8>




# 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



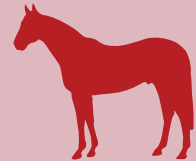
88,000 equine acres preserved forever as farmland



## 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

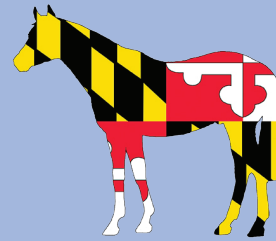


MD is home to International gems:

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

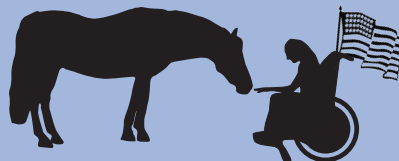
Recreation Sector Total Economic Impact of:  
**\$382 million**



## 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

**Please.OPPOSE.HB1279.Testimony.full.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Wiseman

Position: UNF

**HOUSE BILL 1279 : PLEASE OPPOSE**

Jennifer Wiseman  
Reisterstown, MD  
410-517-2488

Dear Delegates on the MD House Environment and Transportation Committee,

Please OPPOSE House Bill 1279 ! **This bill would wipe out the hunting safety protections that are currently carefully legislated according to the differing needs and desires of each County, as represented by our elected County delegates!** This bill is very disrespectful to the concerns and values of MD citizens and our delegates, unique to each County.

SAFETY ZONES: This bill would obliterate the no-hunting safety zones around our homes that have been carefully chosen in each County, reducing them to a statewide minimum that is completely unacceptable. **Many of us in Baltimore County live with our homes and backyards right next to public lands like parks and reservoirs and other lands where hunting currently is allowed. So in Baltimore County, for example, the safety zone is wisely and vigorously maintained to at least 150-yards, which is the minimum that residents here want.**



**THIS IS A CROSSBOW NOT A GUN!!**

**THIS AD RAN IN THE NRA'S AMERICAN RIFLEMAN MAGAZINE!!!**



**Modern bow and arrow weapons are becoming more like rifles (the razor-bladed arrows can travel 150 yards in 1 second!).** The 150 yard safety zone we currently have should be considered a *minimum*, and the law currently reflects this need for counties that value this protection.

“Tree Stands” and “aiming down” do not reduce the need for a safety zone of at least 150 yards. No one wants to look out from their bedrooms and back yards to see armed people in tree stands! (We know how disconcerting this is – it happened to us, from our bedroom and backyard seeing armed people in stands less than 150 yards away from the house, and thankfully we got help thanks to our current safety zone protection. We’ve even found razor-bladed arrows in our neighborhood backyards and safety zone, along the popular path where people walk with their pets and families -- but if this bill were to pass, residents like us would have no protection or recourse!! And it would destroy peace of mind and enjoyment of being outside in our own back yards and neighborhoods.



**Please note that hunting can *already* occur closer to peoples’ homes and within their safety zones across the state, if the resident gives permission. What this bill would do is to force hunting in neighborhoods and closer to homes even where it is NOT wanted by the residents, and in counties that don’t want this!**

Note also that shortening safety zones has been shown as an ineffective strategy for significantly changing or reducing deer populations, but it does cause a great deal of distress for humans. Our neighborhood has found non-lethal, peaceful ways of living with deer and other wildlife in our area to be much more effective and desirable.

**SUNDAY HUNTING:** Maryland has a proud and much-appreciated tradition of preserving Sundays as a no-hunting day of peace for people and animals during hunting seasons, (which for deer season has been continually stretched to an extremely long period of 5 months!). Though those in my household and neighborhood try to enjoy the outdoors several days a week, we plan our whole week around Sunday being our peaceful “woods hike” day. It is the only day of the week we can be out in the woods and other lands for hiking and enjoying the wildlife and the peace of the outdoors without fear of encountering people with weapons in tree stands, seeing wounded animals, or startling animals into harm’s way. Our neighborhood and County values this very much, as do

families who enjoy hiking in our state parks and other public lands. HB1279 would obliterate a County's right to protect this tradition, by removing voters and their Delegates from being able to protect it! Once again, HB1279 disrespects the voters and delegates of MD, and the fact that Maryland counties may have differing needs and values.



IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, SAFETY, AND PEACE OF MIND that our no-Hunting safety zones not be reduced, and no-Sunday-Hunting protections be preserved! This bill would dishonor and wipe out the different needs and protections worked out for each County, by our own residents and our delegates.

PLEASE OPPOSE HB1279, and any attempt to reduce safety zones or to open Sunday hunting in Counties that do not want this.

With urgency and gratitude,  
-Jennifer Wiseman  
Jennifer.wiseman.email@gmail.com

# **HB 1279 Opposed Lierra Lenhard.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lierra Lenhard

Position: UNF



## OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1279

Lierra Lenhard  
Phoenix, MD

Dear Delegates,

Please do not vote for Bill HB 1279. Each county delegation should continue to decide for itself what is in the best interest of their county and not let DNR decide. DNR caters to the tiny population of hunters, less than 2% of Marylanders and does not have the interest of the majority of Marylanders with their regulations.

Last year myself and others testified against a bill to reduce the safety zone in Baltimore County. Only one person testified for it because his next door neighbor did not want hunting between their houses. Do you really want to pit neighbor against neighbor? The bill failed to pass out of the delegation and a Delegate that is a hunter, advised everyone that reducing the safety zone was a bad idea.

HB 1279 only benefits bow hunters and cross bows are extremely dangerous with new models that advertise that they shoot just like a rifle. Safety zones of 50 or even 100 yards cannot keep us safe when cross bows can shoot an arrow 150 yards in one second!

In the 5 long months of bow hunting citizens will be put into even more danger when hunters can hunt in areas too close to homes where they have never been able to hunt before. All 98% of Marylanders that do not hunt have the right to recreate outdoors without this added danger especially since reduced safety zones in other counties have not reduced the deer population.

Sunday hunting also has not reduced the deer population as many counties have Sunday hunting and it has been proven ineffective. Farmers and others experiencing crop damage can easily get a permit to kill deer 365 days a year. This bill was put in to please the recreational hunter who isn't taking advantage of the 5 months (from early September to the end of January) that they already have 6 days a week.

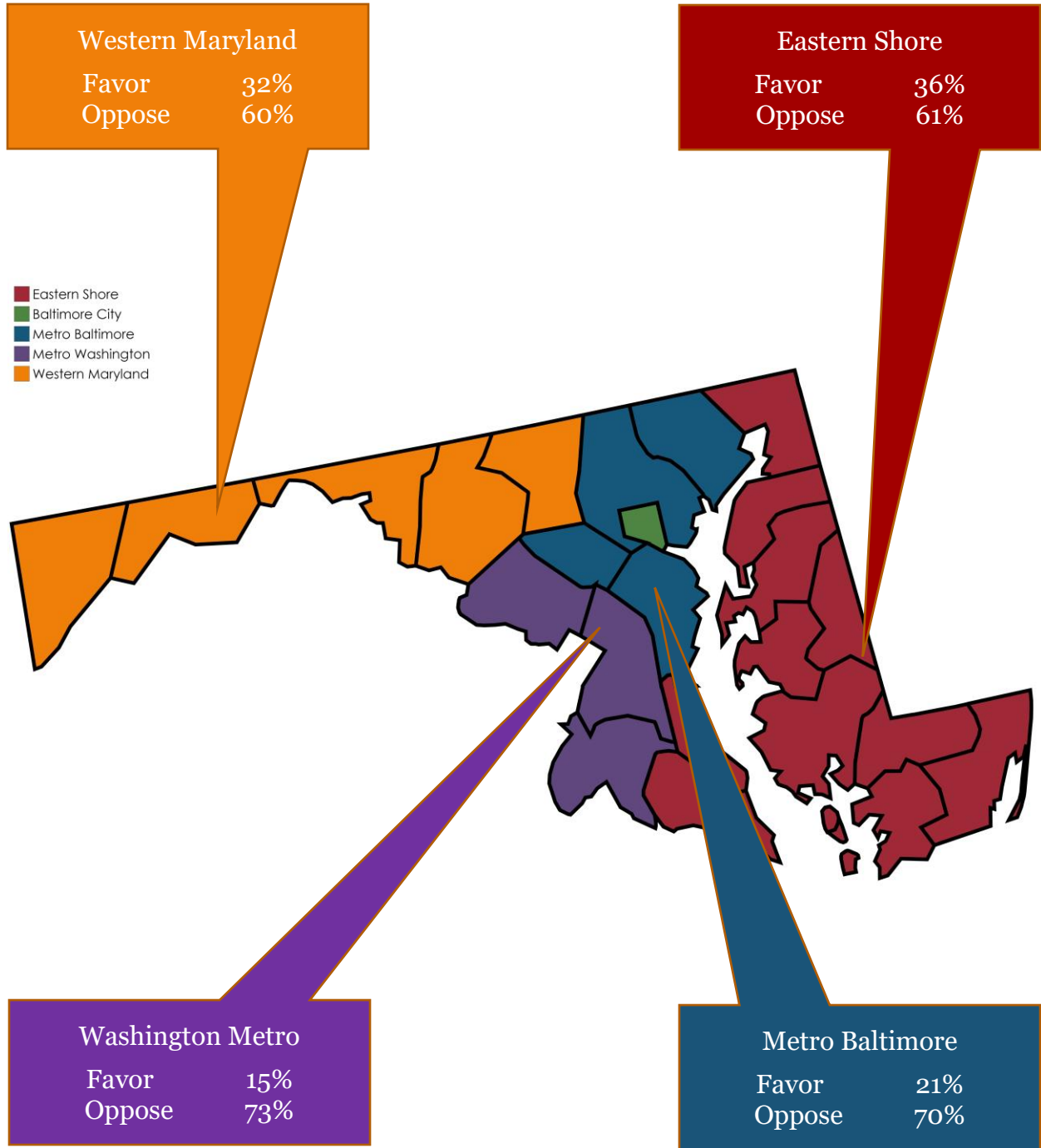
Please listen to the citizens of Maryland as the Gonzales poll proves that the majority of the citizens of Maryland DO NOT want Sunday hunting or the safety zones reduced. **See my attached Gonzales poll results.**

I live 10 minutes from Timonium in a beautiful neighborhood. This bill will make my life even more miserable than hunting already has. I would like to continue to hike on my 14 acres on Sunday and I am angry that hunters will be able to hunt closer to my home. I am already upset about witnessing deer with arrows in them, dead deer with arrows in them and arrows that I could step on and even more upset that these bills are trying to take my rights away!

Sincerely,  
Lierra Lenhard

Maps

**Sunday Hunting**



**QUESTION #2 Sunday Hunting – Favor/Oppose** *All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt 6 days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting STATEWIDE, while others say 6 days a week is enough and they just want one day without weapons in their neighborhoods and parks. Do you favor or oppose legislation that would add Sunday hunting, giving hunters 7 days a week?*

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Favor	175	21.9 %
Oppose	551	68.9 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?***

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	108	13.5 %
Somewhat Favor	67	8.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	123	15.4 %
Strongly Oppose	428	53.5 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	41 9.1%	38 8.5%	68 15.1%	257 57.2%	45 10.0%
Republican	58 25.7%	19 8.4%	27 11.9%	107 47.3%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	10 8.0%	28 22.4%	64 51.2%	14 11.2%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	78 20.9%	30 8.0%	53 14.2%	184 49.2%	29 7.8%
Female	30 7.0%	37 8.7%	70 16.4%	244 57.3%	45 10.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	86 16.1%	47 8.8%	77 14.4%	277 52.0%	46 8.6%
African-American	17 7.8%	17 7.8%	37 17.0%	122 56.0%	25 11.5%
Other	5 10.2%	3 6.1%	9 18.4%	29 59.2%	3 6.1%

N=800

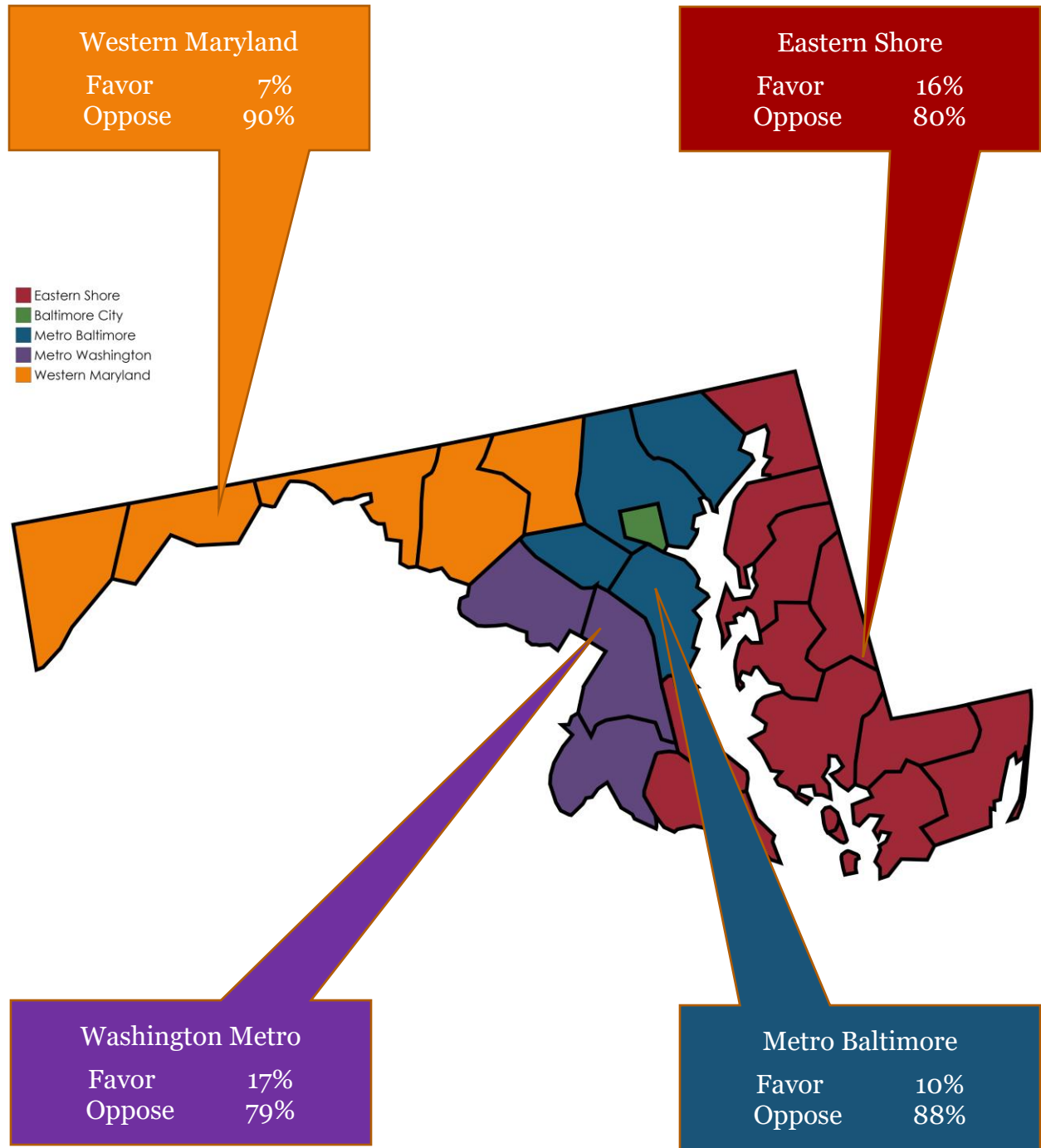
	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Millennial	20 12.3%	7 4.3%	29 17.8%	93 57.1%	14 8.6%
Xennial	11 9.0%	11 9.0%	22 18.0%	68 55.7%	10 8.2%
Gen X	23 14.6%	10 6.4%	24 15.3%	80 51.0%	20 12.7%
Gen Jones	37 21.3%	19 10.9%	25 14.4%	77 44.3%	16 9.2%
Boomer	17 9.2%	20 10.9%	23 12.5%	110 59.8%	14 7.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>REGION</u>					
Baltimore Metro	39 11.3%	32 9.3%	57 16.5%	186 53.9%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	16 5.9%	41 15.2%	155 57.4%	33 12.2%
Rural Maryland	44 23.8%	19 10.3%	25 13.5%	87 47.0%	10 5.4%

Maps

**Legislation to Reduce Safety Zone Distance**



**QUESTION #5 Safety Zone Reduction** *Currently, most counties in Maryland have a 150 yard safety zone, which prohibits hunting within 150 yards of an occupied structure, such as your home. Now that archery crossbows can shoot an arrow almost 150 yards in just one second, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?*

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Favor	100	12.5 %
Oppose	673	84.1 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?***

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	49	6.1 %
Somewhat Favor	51	6.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	77	9.6 %
Strongly Oppose	596	74.5 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	28 6.2%	25 5.6%	43 9.6%	337 75.1%	16 3.6%
Republican	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	22 9.7%	165 73.0%	7 3.1%
Unaffiliated	7 5.6%	8 6.4%	12 9.6%	94 75.2%	4 3.2%

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	20 5.3%	27 7.2%	35 9.4%	279 74.6%	13 3.5%
Female	29 6.8%	24 5.6%	42 9.9%	317 74.4%	14 3.3%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	27 5.1%	33 6.2%	47 8.8%	409 76.7%	17 3.2%
African-American	18 8.3%	17 7.8%	23 10.6%	152 69.7%	8 3.7%
Other	4 8.2%	1 2.0%	7 14.3%	35 71.4%	2 4.1%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Millennial	6 3.7%	6 3.7%	15 9.2%	129 79.1%	7 4.3%
Xennial	7 5.7%	9 7.4%	7 5.7%	98 80.3%	1 0.8%
Gen X	11 7.0%	11 7.0%	13 8.3%	114 72.6%	8 5.1%
Gen Jones	14 8.0%	10 5.7%	18 10.3%	129 74.1%	3 1.7%
Boomer	11 6.0%	15 8.2%	24 13.0%	126 68.5%	8 4.3%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>REGION</u>					
Baltimore Metro	12 3.5%	21 6.1%	33 9.6%	269 78.0%	10 2.9%
Washington Metro	28 10.4%	18 6.7%	23 8.5%	191 70.7%	10 3.7%
Rural Maryland	9 4.9%	12 6.5%	21 11.4%	136 73.5%	7 3.8%

# **Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones - Statewid**

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: UNF





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



March 9, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.

Re: Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones - Statewide Authorization and Establishment- HB 1279- Oppose

Chair Barve, Vice - Chair Stein, members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, my name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. I am here today representing Maryland Votes for Animals and The Humane Society of The United States. Speaking for both of our organizations and our thousands of members across the State, we respectfully request that the House Environment & Transportation Committee give an unfavorable vote to Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones - Statewide Authorization and Establishment – HB 1279.

This bill would open ALL counties in Maryland to Sunday hunting by authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow hunting on private property and public land designated for hunting by the State and establish a uniform statewide safety zone for archery hunters.

Are the residents of every county asking for this change?

This legislation would presume that the interests of the residents of counties from Garrett, Allegheny, Montgomery, Talbot, Howard County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City are identical, or least very similar. In addition to statewide Sunday Hunting, this bill establishes an identical 50-yard safety zone for archery hunters in every county. The decision on a safe distance for archery hunters should be predicated on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the density of the housing units, the schools in that area, the wildlife living in that county, and more, such that allowing archery hunting does not pose a hazard to residents of that county.

Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City have diverse topography, wildlife, and human populations. While we agree that Maryland's current hodgepodge of Sunday hunting laws, which vary County by County, creates confusion for residents, these issues cannot be determined arbitrarily in a manner that imposes one set of rules on the entire state

We would welcome an inclusive stakeholder process to create more consistent Sunday hunting (and archery) laws across Maryland. But that process would need to account for existing Sunday hunting restrictions and recognize the limitations determined by the various Counties, not strike all existing Sunday hunting laws completely.

**Regional preferences and differences exist that impact the needs of constituents regarding hunting issues in their own backyards. This issue should not be mandated in a statewide one-size-fits-all bill.**

I respectfully ask that this committee give an unfavorable vote to HB 1279.

# **HB1279\_UNF\_Wills**

Uploaded by: Rick Wills

Position: UNF

RE: OPPOSED to Bill #: HB1279 — Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones  
Statewide Authorization and Establishment

From: Rick Wills  
rwsexcavating@yahoo.com  
13261 Woodmont Road  
Hancock, MD 21750

I am **OPPOSED** to the above referenced Bill #HB1279. I have been an avid deer hunter for over 35 years, and also farm, but I do not agree that there needs to be hunting on Sundays. That leaves one day a week for quiet and safe enjoyment for others who would like to enjoy walking in the woods and may not be hunters. We should not just think of ourselves as hunters or farmers, but other people who matter just as much as we do.

Please reply to this email and confirm that this input has been received and presented to the committee.

Thank you.

Rick Wills

# **HB1279\_UNF\_Todd**

Uploaded by: Robin Todd

Position: UNF



March 8, 2022

## **HB1279 : Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zone Statewide Authorization and Establishment**

### **Position: Unfavorable**

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) asks that the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee to give an unfavorable report on HB1279.

Allowing hunting on Sundays would rob the non-hunting residents of Maryland, who make up the majority, of the one day of the week during hunting season on which they can enjoy hiking, dog walking, bird watching, horseback riding mountain biking and other activities without the fear of encountering hunters. For example, a 2018 study<sup>1</sup> by DNR, involving three telephone surveys, found that only 8% of residents had hunted deer in the preceding two years. DNR also notes that only 2-3% of Marylanders hunt<sup>2</sup>. This bill would give unfair preference to this small group of the general population.

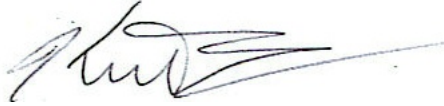
MOS is a Maryland-based volunteer organization of some 1900 members, with 15 chapters throughout the state. We are devoted to the enjoyment, study and preservation of birds and their habitat.

<sup>1</sup> At page 14 in: Maryland Residents', Landowners', Hunters' Attitudes Towards Deer Hunting and Deer Management.  
Prepared by Responsive Management. DNR, 2018

<sup>2</sup>[https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt\\_trap/deerhuntastool.aspx#:~:text=While%20only%20small%20percentage%20of,tool%20and%20support%20its%20use.](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/deerhuntastool.aspx#:~:text=While%20only%20small%20percentage%20of,tool%20and%20support%20its%20use.)

Please reply to this email and confirm that it has been received and presented to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Kurt R. Schwarz  
Conservation Chair  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
[www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org)  
7329 Wildwood Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21046  
410-461-1643  
[krschwal@verizon.net](mailto:krschwal@verizon.net)

-



Robin Todd, PhD  
Past President, Conservation Committee Member  
10174 Green Clover Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-313-8154  
[robintodd1948@gmail.com](mailto:robintodd1948@gmail.com)

**HB1279\_UNF\_Gray**

Uploaded by: Susan Gray

Position: UNF

Bill HB 1279 Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones Statewide Authorization

Susan Gray, [susan@campsusan.com](mailto:susan@campsusan.com)  
Highland, Maryland

UNFAVORABLE

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am very much opposed to passage of this bill. Access to public lands for recreational purposes needs to be allowed to all without fear of being shot at. Please do not pass this bill.



**HB1279\_DNR\_LOI\_ENT\_3-9-22.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman

Position: INFO



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*  
*Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary*

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1279

**Short Title:** Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones-Statewide Authorization and Establishment

**Department's Position:** Letter of Information

**Explanation of Department's Position**

HB1279 would authorize Sunday hunting opportunities for all game species on Sundays during legal seasons on private property in every county in Maryland, and public lands designated for hunting by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (the Department or DNR). It would also establish a uniform statewide safety zone for archery hunters that extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church or any other building or camp occupied by human beings. A standard currently held in 10 Maryland counties.

**Hunting remains the most cost-effective method for controlling the deer population throughout Maryland.** The Department recognizes and supports the fact 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.

Despite the success of our current deer hunting model, we are still struggling to mitigate the negative impacts of expanding deer populations in Maryland's suburbs. One of the limiting factors to hunter success in those areas is the requirement for all hunters, including those using archery equipment, to setback 150 yards from any residence or potentially occupied building. This distance requirement effectively eliminates a significant number of otherwise legal and impactful hunting locations.

Recognizing that nearly 90% of the deer taken by archers in Maryland are hunted on private land, it is difficult to increase the overall harvest without providing hunters additional opportunities on those private lands. Reducing the 150-yard setback requirement to 50 yards effectively triples the areas available to hunters. This change offers one of the few remaining cost-effective and reasonable options to increasing the deer harvest in any county and will

Contact: Bunky Luffman, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
Bunky.luffman1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-689-9165

contribute to an increase in the efficacy of hunting as a deer management and damage-abatement tool in those areas.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.