



Environment and Transportation Committee

*Chair*  
Motor Vehicle and Transportation  
Subcommittee

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB485**  
**Montgomery County-Deer Hunting-Sundays**  
February 25, 2022- The Environment and Transportation Committee

The explosion of the deer population in Montgomery County has continued to cause many problems for residents, including an increase in car accidents and agricultural damage. State Farm estimates that there were an average of 31,500 deer-vehicle collisions in Maryland during each of the last five past years.<sup>i</sup>

A 2014 Deer Damage Survey conducted by Montgomery County Parks found that of the 19,197 acres of agricultural land in the County, overall loss from deer amounted to 16%.<sup>ii</sup> Deer can consume six-to-eight pounds of plants per day, which negatively impacts native vegetation, agricultural crop yields, and wildlife.

HB485 is a reintroduction of the Montgomery County Sunday Hunting bill passed in 2017<sup>iii</sup>, to remove the sunset that would go into effect this year. This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow a person to hunt deer on Sunday in Montgomery County throughout the deer hunting season on private property.

According to DNR, regulated hunting is the most cost-effective deer population control mechanism available throughout the State, and Sunday hunting has positively contributed to managing the white-tailed deer population where it is now permitted.

Last year, more than 8% of the deer harvest in the County occurred on Sunday. This is important because the majority of Sunday hunting days are open to archery deer hunters, and archery harvests represent the majority of the deer taken in Montgomery County.<sup>iv</sup>

I encourage a favorable vote on this bill, which passed in 2017, to ensure that the deer population in our County continues to be managed through controlled hunting methods.

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i	<a href="#">MD-Annual-Deer-Report-2019-2020.pdf (maryland.gov)</a>
ii	<a href="#">Recommendations for FY 2020 (montgomeryparks.org)</a>
iii	<a href="#">Legislation - HB0310 (maryland.gov)</a>
iv	According to DNR