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Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Public Utilities

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB682
BALTIMORE COUNTY – HUNTING –NONGAME BIRD AND MAMMALS

Environment and Transportation Committee
February 18, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on HB682, Baltimore County-Hunting-Nongame Bird and Mammals. HB682 repeals a prohibition in Baltimore County against the hunting or attempting to hunt nongame birds and mammals without first obtaining a hunting license. This bill would only apply to non-protected nongame birds and mammals. As defined by Maryland Natural Resources § 10-101, nongame birds and mammals means “every wild mammal and bird not classified as game birds and mammals or any part, egg, offspring, or dead body of any of them”.

Farmers can experience damage to crops, equipment, and destruction of their underground irrigation systems. Wildlife damage and nuisance situations are expected to continue and increase. Only in Baltimore County, are farmers required to obtain a license first before protecting their farms from these creatures. By reducing nongame birds and mammals from these properties, it will provide economic relief to the farmers of Baltimore County.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks