

DANA M. STEIN  
Legislative District 11  
Baltimore County

Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Subcommittees  
Chair, Environment  
Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527  
Fax 410-841-3509 · 301-858-3509  
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 1067  
Natural Resources - Wildlife Management – Nighttime Hunting**

Chairman Barve and fellow Committee members:

Deer are a publicly owned resource. That's why DNR specifies the times when deer can be hunted for recreational purposes.

However, we also recognize that deer can pose a problem for farmers. That's why management tools exist for deer-related mitigation outside the recreational hunting season. These include:

1. Deer Management Permits, which allow landowners to take deer 365 days, including all Sundays, during daylight hours only.
2. Deer Cooperator Permits, which help control deer populations in densely populated areas where recreational hunting is out of the question, for public safety purposes ; and
3. Agricultural Deer Cooperator Permits, which help mitigate economic losses incurred by landowners recreational hunting and Deer Management Permits.

While these management tools help control deer on farmland, they have been insufficient, so DNR also allows holders of Deer Cooperator Permits and Agricultural Deer Cooperator Permits to shoot deer at night for two months of the year.

But DNR is considering expanding the authority to shoot deer at night beyond the two months. Hunters and the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus have a big problem with that.

That's because night-time hunting of deer allows the use of "jacklighting." This is a practice used to kill deer at night by shining high-powered lights into their eyes, temporarily blinding them, and allowing them to be easily shot (hence the phrase, "like a deer blinded in headlights"). This is a terrible practice that violates conservation-minded hunting via the fair-chase doctrine.

Hunters, the Sportsmen's Caucus, and I believe that DNR should not allow this type of hunting for more than two months each year. That's what HB 1067 would codify. Without this, DNR could allow deer to be killed all day and all night, 365 day a year, including Sundays.

Further, the bill provides accountability by ensuring DNR documents every issuance of these permits.