

As the treasurer of the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center (TEC) and lifelong equestrian, I firmly oppose HB 556.

TEC has over 300 members, some of whom are hunters. But as an organization we oppose extending the days already allowed to include all these additional Sundays.

I live directly across from the Tuckahoe State Park with its many miles of multi-use trails. The main reason for buying this property was its proximity to the trails.

While only 2% of Maryland's population have hunting licenses, the number of residents who frequent the State's parks to ride, hike, bird-watch, dog walk, jog or otherwise enjoy nature with their families is many multiples of the number of hunters.

The hunters want to claim the only weekend day where the majority of MD's residents can safely enjoy their pursuits without fearing gunshots that may startle horses and disrupt all these other activities.

Hunters claim they have the right to take their children out to hunt. What about the majority of other families that want to safely enjoy their pursuits?

Existing hunting seasons offer hunters amply days and times to enjoy their "sport" since only the smallest percentage of the 2% are actually hunting for food.

It seems the hunters have managed to have their voices heard loud and clear over the "silent majority."

Do we really need extra days to teach our children how to kill animals?

Please do NOT pass HB 556