

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