

To: The Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Ann Selnick, Ellicott City
Submitted: 3/7/22

Subject: Opposition to HB1279-Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones-Statewide Authorization and Establishment

My family moved to Howard County in 1989. In the 33 years that I have lived in Howard County, five bills have been introduced attempting to either add Sunday Hunting or reduce the size of the archery safety zone. **All five bills failed.** Whenever a Statewide bill of this nature has been introduced that would include Howard County, residents of Howard County have repeatedly voiced opposition.

With less than 1% of HoCo residents applying for hunting licenses annually, it's obvious that HoCo residents either oppose or are **not** interested in hunting. It's an unrealistic assumption that HoCo residents would support any additional hunting privileges to accommodate 1% of the population.

Hunting regulations cannot be "one size fits all", for reasons of population density.

For example, I noted that the sponsors of HB1279 represent the following Counties:

County	Population	Residents per sq mile/ Population Density
Cecil	103,725	250
Allegany	68,106	160
Harford	260,924	597
Carroll	172,891	380
By Comparison-		
Howard Co.	328,200	1,300 Residents per sq mile
Ellicott City		2,500
Columbia		3,251

Howard County is one of the smallest Counties in MD by land area and has experienced considerable growth over the past two decades. Open space (this includes our parks) in HoCo is surrounded by schools, sports complexes, housing developments, shopping centers, business parks, etc. If asked to list a lifestyle complaint about living in HoCo it would typically be 'over developed'. The thought that a hunter with a crossbow would be allowed within 50 yards of a structure is frightening, especially when you consider that an arrow can travel 450 feet in just one second. Any further reduction of the safety zone significantly increases the possibility of a tragic accident.

Finally, HB1279 would give DNR the complete authority to force Sunday Hunting and a reduction of the safety zone without input from the elected representatives of HoCo. It's unacceptable to cede this power to DNR. Hunters already have 6 days a week, that's enough!

HB1279 is a bad proposal. Please do not move this Bill forward in any form.