

## COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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### COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-CLERK  
RALPH D. TAYLOR

COUNTY ATTORNEY  
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

We as Commissioners of Somerset County strongly support House Bill 143/Senate Bill 098 that would add Somerset County to the current list of Counties that are permitted to hunt on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons including Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington.

Given the unique makeup of Somerset County and the number of existing tracts of public lands in Somerset County that are remote and undeveloped, we also strongly support allowing Somerset County to hunt on public land leased to a hunt club. This also would allow Somerset County to be equitable with Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's Washington, Dorchester, and Frederick which are allowed to hunt on public lands. Janes Island State Park in Somerset County would NOT be open to Sunday hunting as existing law prohibits opening lands managed by the Maryland Park Service.

It is consistent with the family hunting traditions in Somerset County, allowing more time for Somerset County families to hunt during a limited season for game bird and game mammals, and the legislation also is supported by local businesses.

We as Somerset County Commissioners request for a favorable report and final passage of HB 143/SB98 in its current posture. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig N. Mathies, Sr.  
President