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

**HOUSE BILL 143
SUPPORT**

Re: House Bill 143 – Somerset County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), I submit these comments in support for House Bill 143 (“HB 143”) by Delegate Otto. HB 143 would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in Somerset County to hunt on private property on each Sunday of the game bird or game mammal seasons; and establish an exception to the prohibition against the Department authorizing Sunday hunting on public land for public land in Somerset County leased to a hunt club.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. We have a membership of thousands of manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, and shooting ranges. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Maryland sportsmen and women, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

This important piece of legislation will expand current Sunday hunting opportunities for sportsmen, women, and children in Somerset County. Sunday hunting is an excellent vehicle to recruit new hunter-conservationists. Hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation have proven physical, psychological, and educational benefits for our nation’s young people. Due to the greater prevalence of academic, athletic, and other competing activities that take place on Saturday, it is likely that allowing Sunday hunting will more than double the number of days children can hunt.

The passage of House Bill 143 will help ensure Maryland’s strong hunting heritage can be enjoyed and passed on to future generations of hunters and conservationists, and it is for these reasons that the National Shooting Sports Foundation supports the passage of Delegate Otto’s House Bill 143.

Sincerely,

Trevor W. Santos