



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 8, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 796 - Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

On behalf of our Wicomico County Farm Bureau member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 796, legislation authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt game birds and mammals on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Wicomico County. It also authorizes the Department to allow Sunday hunting in Wicomico County on public land designated for hunting by the Department and adds Wicomico County to the list of counties in which the safety zone for archery hunters is 50 yards.

Crop damage created by deer is nearly \$50 per acre today. These numbers are even higher on the Eastern Shore. DNR reports show that more than 10% of the deer harvested this hunting season were done on Sundays. Opening Wicomico County to have these additional Sunday hunting dates will allow the hunters to help address the overpopulation of deer in Wicomico County.

MDFB Policy: We support statewide Sunday hunting on private lands.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 796 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396