

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Mr. Johnny Mautz
402 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Johnny Mautz,

Unfortunately I am unable to be here today; however, Mr. Brian Sheats was kind enough to speak on my behalf.

As an avid outdoors woman and lifetime resident of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, I urge you to support the revision of the law to allow hunting on Sundays during the applicable season.

As a committed member of my community, I work for our educational system. As you can imagine and are probably very well aware, those of us who work in our school systems are doing everything we can to make sure that our buildings are staffed on a daily basis. School hours are not our true working hours, therefore, the only opportunity I get to hunt is on a Saturday. However, my role within the school system is a building administrator, so my Saturdays are not always guaranteed to be used for activities of my choosing.

Recently, I made the comment to my loved ones that this would be my last season hunting. Paying the fees for my licenses is just not worth it anymore when my one day a week hunt is not always guaranteed. It is upsetting that I must make the decision to excel in my career or to participate in an activity that not only brings me joy, but also assists with the deer population and puts food on my table.

My fiancé is a hunting guide and an avid hunter himself, and many of my friends are farmers. I frequently travel from Wicomico County to Talbot County. It is no secret that our deer population is not decreasing here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. When looking at the statistics for the 2022-2023 season for harvested whitetail deer, Wicomico County is down almost 20% from the previous season and Talbot County is down 2.5% from last season. If this change was made and there seems to be a sudden negative impact, just as it has been done in the past, a revision to the law could be made.

The law as it stands, is not conducive for working members of society. The law is actually encouraging people to take off from their jobs in order to participate in this recreational activity that has an important impact on our environment. As a taxpayer and an employee of an essential occupation within our community, I strongly suggest the consideration for this change.

As stated above, this letter is being read on my behalf. This is because I do not have the option to take off work in order to stand in front of you and speak today. Unfortunately, if I cannot take off to speak to those in charge of making this decision, I certainly cannot take off to hunt.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. O'Leary", written in a cursive style.

Ms. Madison O'Leary
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