

SB 320 Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commi

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: FAV

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

TO: Brian Feldman, Chair of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and Committee Members

FROM: Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations; and Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Climate and Conservation Policy Analyst,

POSITION: Support SB 320 - Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 320 offered by Senator Brooks. TNC is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Maryland, our work focuses on delivering science-based, on-the-ground solutions that secure clean water and healthy living environments for our communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience in the face of a changing climate. We are dedicated to a future where people and nature thrive together.

SB 320 aims to alter the Wildlife Advisory Commission's membership by appointing an academic wildlife expert, in addition to representatives from the farming community, hunting or fishing communities, wildlife preservation community, and the passive wildlife recreation community. This change would expand the Commission's expertise and ability to protect threatened and endangered species.

Each year, the United States loses an area the size of Delaware to development and unsustainable use. This land and biodiversity loss can often be irreversible. Here in Maryland, the lands, waters, and species that surround us are irreplaceable resources. They are an invaluable part of our heritage, our economy, and our identity. Climate change and a wide range of human activities are impacting habitats at an unprecedented and unsustainable rate. By introducing new perspectives and expertise to the Wildlife Advisory Commission, Maryland can take marked steps to reverse biodiversity loss in our state.

The Appalachians are one of the most resilient, diverse, and productive ecosystems on Earth. TNC has prioritized conservation across this ancient chain of forested mountains, valleys, wetlands and rivers as a global imperative due to the high biological diversity of species, the carbon stored in the forests and the rich history and culture of this landscape, beginning with the original Indigenous stewards. The section of the Appalachians running through West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania are a critical corridor for species migrating in response to climate change. This section, known as the Allegheny Front, is a priority landscape to preserve the rich biodiversity of the larger Appalachian range as climate change drives species to move and adapt. Serving as a habitat bridge between vast conservation lands in the southern and northern Appalachians, the Allegheny Front plays a critical role in keeping this continental ecosystem connected. The Wildlife Advisory Commission is critical to protecting the diverse species that rely on Maryland's unique landscape and adding new expertise and perspectives to the Commission will create additional capacity to achieve this mission.

TNC commends Senator Brooks for advancing legislation to maintain biodiversity in Maryland and across the region.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 320.

SB320_MDSierraClub_fav 15Feb2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Carolyn Parsa

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: SB320 “Natural Resources–Wildlife Advisory Commission–Membership”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB230, which would require the Governor to diversify the Wildlife Advisory Commission by appointing an academic researcher to the Commission and require membership to include representation from the farming, hunting or fishing, wildlife preservation, and passive wildlife recreation communities.

The Wildlife Advisory Commission serves to advise the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on all of Maryland’s wildlife matters. It is their responsibility to not only oversee hunting and fishing licensing and game populations, but also serve as advisors on other issues such as monitoring and addressing epizootic diseases, promoting wildlife and habitat conservation, educating the public about Maryland’s wildlife, collaborating with farmers, fostering science and research, and generally protecting and conserving Maryland’s wildlife resources.

To properly address the broad range of responsibilities of the Commission, the representatives must have a varied background and represent different stakeholders. By adding non-consumptive and academic representation to the Commission, we allow for a more comprehensive view of hunting and fishing in Maryland and help ensure increased commitment by the DNR to a wider range of issues.

The Sierra Club supports responsible hunting and fishing, with care given to protect vulnerable wildlife from becoming endangered or extinct. Given that SB320 will expand the voices on the Wildlife Advisory Commission to include a diverse array of outdoor stakeholders, the end goal of this legislation will serve to promote the goals of the Sierra Club in ensuring increased conservation and protection of our wildlife and ecosystems.

As Marylanders, we are fortunate to have an abundance of diverse wildlife that live in our unique ecosystems stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to the Appalachian Mountains. We must be proactive with responsible management and conservation so that a broad array of individuals can access and enjoy these resources for future generations to come. Therefore, we strongly encourage a favorable report for SB320.

Luca Grifo-Hahn
Natural Places Committee
lucagh.sierraclub@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

HOM Testimony on SB 320 (Wildlife Advisory Commiss

Uploaded by: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 501
Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

February 15, 2023

THE HONORABLE BRIAN FELDMAN Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee HONORABLE MEMBERS

**RE: SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS, SENATE BILL 320 (Natural Resources – Wildlife
Advisory Commission -- Membership)**

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND represent the interests of Maryland's hunting community at both the State and local level. Few realize that hunters underwrite almost 100% of all wildlife management and research costs through their purchase of hunting licenses, stamps and equipment. For the record, hunters do so willingly b/c of **American System of Conservation Funding**, a user-pay model celebrating its 85th Anniversary which also underscores the noble story of hunters as America's original conservationists.

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/introduction_to_american_conservation_funding_.pdf

Steve Keithley, Founder (301/785-4774 [sssbkeith@comcast.net])
William R. Miles, Advocate (443/404-7449 [billmilesmd@comcast.net])

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND support Senate Bill 320 – with amendments --b/c wildlife belong to no one person, wildlife belongs to the citizenry...so says the Public Trust Doctrine. Diverse individuals, groups and organizations, who want a broader advisory voice in how Maryland's DNR manages wildlife, is a good thing and should be afforded every opportunity. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "Wildlife cannot speak for itself, so we must and we will." Clearly, Roosevelt's message resonates with everyone interested in and supportive of sound wildlife management science.

Re the amendments: we respectfully request the following: (1) the Commission's membership be increased to 10 b/c Board Chairs – throughout Maryland State Government – do not vote, hence, 10 Members will allow for a majority vote; (2) there's no need to include the "fishing community" representation in WAC b/c there are already two existing fishing advisory groups in Maryland under DNR – Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission – neither of which have hunters per se as respective members; and (3) existing law -- § 1-102 of the Natural Resources Article (Maryland Annotated Code) – states the Governor is authorized to appointment a WAC Member representative who "promotes the preservation of wildlife" so not sure why there's a need to reiterate it again, aka "THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY"

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Miles

SB320_Testimony_PDF.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Corigliano

Position: FAV

SENATE BILL 320 SUPPORT

Kate Corigliano

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61 Dant Lane, Elkton, MD 21921

SENATE BILL 320 SUPPORT

Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

Wednesday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Thank you for your public service and consideration of my testimony. We made a conscious decision (decades ago) to make Maryland our home, foregoing more favorable taxation, simply for the privilege of enjoying Maryland's natural beauty. Currently many variables are impacting the preservation of Maryland's natural resources, i.e., new diseases (ex., deer population exhibiting SARS-CoV-2 and chronic wasting disease), hunting day expansion, harvest limit increases, land development, etc.. It is imperative that an expert scientist in wildlife be an integral part of the Wildlife Advisory Commission to ensure our natural resources are being maintained for the benefit of all stakeholders and future generations.

I urge the committee to support SB 320.

Respectfully,
Kate Corigliano

MSBA.SB320.2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Fullerton

Position: FAV

MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ANIMAL LAW SECTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section
Kimberly L. Fullerton, Esq.
301-870-9555
RE: Senate Bill 320 – Natural Resources – Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership
DATE: February 13, 2023
POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section is in support of SB 320, which would update membership requirements of the Commission responsible for advising the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) on the management of Maryland’s wildlife resources. The Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor.

I. Expertise in Environmental Science is Necessary to Safeguard Maryland’s Natural Resources

SB 320 requires the Governor to appoint to the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission (“Commission”) one member who is an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology.

Environmental Science is a highly technical field. The Commission should include an academic researcher to ensure that advice to DNR considers scientific principles related to the management of natural resources.

II. The Commission Should Update and Diversify Current Membership Requirements

SB 320 would update an existing membership requirement by requiring additional representation from the hunting or fishing communities, the wildlife preservation community, and the passive wildlife recreation community.

This bill is necessary to ensure that the perspectives and concerns of Maryland’s diverse communities are represented in management of the State’s natural resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kimberly Fullerton,

Immediate Past Chair

Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section

cc: Maryland State Bar Association

Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission -

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 15, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Natural Resources Wildlife Advisory Commission- SB 320 - Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Natural Resources Wildlife Advisory Commission- SB 320.

This bill would define the membership of Maryland's Wildlife Advisory Commission to include biologists, conservationists, and recreational users as well as hunters to make balanced decisions regarding hunting, trapping, and fishing. The current Wildlife Advisory Commission has nine members but no representation from individuals with a background in academic research with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology.

The Wildlife Advisory Commission must have representation from the farming, hunting or fishing, wildlife preservation, and wildlife recreation communities to make informed decisions from a variety of perspectives and experiences in order to best serve the needs of all stakeholders.

Maryland's wildlife is counting on us to make the Wildlife Advisory Commission a place where their interests are represented.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Brooks for his sponsorship of SB 320 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

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Uploaded by: Stephanie Boyles Griffin

Position: FAV



February 15, 2023

**SB320 - Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership
FAVORABLE**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our Maryland members and volunteers, we thank Delegate Palakovich Carr for bringing forward Senate Bill 320 that recognizes the importance of a diversity of voices and viewpoints in managing our state's wildlife.

The nine members of the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission are appointed by the governor to advise the Secretary of the DNR on wildlife issues. Currently, state law requires only that there be representation from the farming community in that body but is silent on other important wildlife stakeholders in our state.

Researchers have recently underscored the importance of following the hallmarks of science—including measurable objectives, evidence, transparency and independent review—when advising on and formulating wildlife management policy.¹ Currently, though, Maryland law does not include any requirements for the presence of a wildlife scientist on the Wildlife Advisory Commission. HB 188 would address this by requiring that the governor appoint an academic researcher, with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology, to the Commission to help ensure those hallmarks of science are considered.

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only 1.9% of Maryland residents are paid hunting license holders.² Yet historically the Wildlife Advisory Commission has been dominated by hunters and their organizations, with little to no representation by the vast majority of Marylanders who do not hunt or trap.

Recent landmark research from Colorado State University, called the “America’s Wildlife Values Project,” found that animal welfare has become an increasingly important concern for the general public nationwide. The research found that more Marylanders believe that we should humanely coexist with wildlife, than those who believe that wildlife should be used and managed for human benefit. And more than 67% of Maryland residents surveyed in that study agreed that our state should strive for environmental protection over economic growth.³ Another study called the *Nature of Americans Report* found that Americans express broad interest in nature, believe connecting with nature is important, and want to conserve wildlife species and their habitats.⁴

Nationwide, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes that wildlife watchers now outnumber and outspend hunters by a wide margin.⁵ The National Park Service reports that:

¹ Artelle, K. A., Reynolds, J. D., Treves, A., Walsh, J. C., Paquet, P. C., & Darimont, C. T. (2018). Hallmarks of science missing from North American wildlife management. *Science Advances*, 4(3). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aao0167>

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2022). Historical hunting license data (2021).

³ Manfredo, M.J., Sullivan, L., Don Carlos, A.W., Dietsch, A.M., Teel, T.L., Bright, A.D., & Bruskotter, J. (2018). *America’s Wildlife Values: The Social Context of Wildlife Management in the U.S.* National report from the research project entitled “America’s Wildlife Values.” Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University, Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources. <https://sites.warnercnr.colostate.edu/wildlifevalues/>

⁴ Kellert, S.R., Case, D.J., Escher, D., Witter, D.J., Mikels-Carrasco, J., Seng, P.T. April 2017. The Nature of Americans: National Report. https://natureofamericans.org/sites/default/files/reports/Nature-of-Americans_National_Report_1.3_4-26-17.pdf

⁵ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/news-attached-files/nat_survey2016.pdf

In 2021, 6.7 million park visitors spent an estimated \$247 million in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands in Maryland. These expenditures supported a total of 2,940 jobs, \$130 million in labor income, \$215 million in value added, and \$344 million in economic output in the Maryland economy.⁶

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Dept. of Commerce, outdoor recreation in Maryland generated more than \$6.6 billion for the state’s economy in 2021. Of that figure, hunting and trapping generated a mere 1.31%, while revenue from RVing was more than twice that. Other outdoor recreation and conventional air and land activities, including wildlife watching, outdoor events and field sports, generated almost 15 times more than hunting and trapping. And people spent almost 24 times more on travel and tourism in Maryland than on hunting and trapping (Fig. 1).⁷

Fig. 1. Outdoor recreation spending in Iowa (2021 data from U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Sample activities	Spending (in thousands of dollars)	% of total
Hunting and trapping	86,230	1.31
RVing	181,823	2.77
Sale of multi-use apparel and accessories ⁸	888,874	13.6
Other outdoor recreation and conventional air and land activities	1,253,482	19.1
Travel and tourism	2,042,090	31.1
Total outdoor recreation	6,567,148	100.00

In other words, those who use the outdoors in ways other than hunting and trapping wildlife provide a far more significant economic contribution to Maryland’s economy. But so far, that constituency has been shut out of the life and death decisions about the wildlife that is held in trust for them. HB 188 would remedy this by requiring representation on the Wildlife Advisory Commission from the wildlife preservation community and the passive wildlife recreation community, in addition to representation from the hunting or fishing and farming communities.

We urge a favorable report on SB 320 to provide much-needed diversity in Maryland wildlife governance, and to better align management decisions with changing public attitudes and values toward their wildlife.

⁶ National Park Service. (2022). National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>.

⁷ Bureau of Economic Analysis, D. o. C. (2021). Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2021 <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation>

⁸ Includes sale of backpacks, bug spray, coolers, general outdoor clothing, GPS equipment, hydration equipment, lighting, sports racks, sunscreen, watches, and other miscellaneous gear and equipment.

Brooks_SB320.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FWA

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF 320
Natural Resources – Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 15, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB320, Natural Resources – Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership. The purpose of this bill is to expand the membership of the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

Currently, the Commission membership must include representation from the farming community. SB320 expands the membership from nine members to ten members. It also expands the composition of the commission to include the hunting community, the Wildlife Preservation Community, the Passive Wildlife Recreation Community, and an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management or ecology.

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission was created to advise the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources on wildlife matters. Their tasks range from overseeing hunting licenses to protecting and conserving Maryland's wildlife resources. For the Commission to adequately perform its duties, it must include a diverse array of stakeholders. SB320, as amended, will enhance the Commission by combining scientific and naturalist expertise.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

Benjamin F. Brooks

Benjamin Brooks

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Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FWA



SB0320/593529/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

14 FEB 23
09:56:12

BY: Senator Brooks
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 320
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after “of” insert “increasing the membership of the Wildlife Advisory Commission;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 17, strike “nine” and substitute “10”.

On page 2, in line 6, strike “OR FISHING COMMUNITIES” and substitute “COMMUNITY”; in line 12, strike “1987” and substitute “2023”; in line 13, strike “1988; and” and substitute “2024;”; in line 14, strike “1989” and substitute “2025; AND

4. 1 SHALL END IN 2028”;

after line 18, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not alter the term of a member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission that is serving as of the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall appoint one member to the Wildlife Advisory Commission in accordance with § 1–102(c)(2)(i) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act. The member shall serve for a term of 4 years which shall begin on July 1, 2024, and shall terminate at the end of June 30, 2028, and the member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.”;

and in line 19, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”.

testimony - WAC membership-Senate.2.pages.pdf

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: FWA



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 606 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

In the Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee, February 15, 2023

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 320
Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership - **Favorable with Amendment**

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We stand for over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

We support the intent and effect of SB 320 to expand the diversity of voices and viewpoints on the Wildlife Advisory Commission. For example, the largest segment of horseback riders in Maryland is trail riders, and one of the many pleasures of that activity is the opportunity to view wildlife in their habitat, i.e., as members of the Passive Wildlife Recreation Community.

There is another segment of the equestrian community that has had representation on the Commission, that of the mounted fox chasers, foot pack chasers, etc. Those individuals and groups form a significant portion of Maryland's active recreational and sporting wildlife activity participants. Now that additional, specifically designated seats are being enumerated, we think it is important that their continued representation be codified.

Therefore we respectfully request that SB 320 be amended as follows:

On page 2, Lines 9 et seq.:

C. ~~THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION~~ CONSERVATION COMMUNITY; ~~AND~~

D. THE PASSIVE WILDLIFE RECREATION COMMUNITY; AND

E. THE MOUNTED AND UNMOUNTED CHASING COMMUNITIES.

With the above amendments, MHC requests a favorable report on SB 320.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

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