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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

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