



**Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401**

RE: Senate Bill SB327 - *Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, & Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, & Stamps*

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Sportsmen's Foundation was founded to Conserve, Promote, & Protect Maryland Lands, Wildlife, & Wildlife Habitat for the future enjoyment of all citizens. With this in mind we wholeheartedly **SUPPORT** SB327.

This omnibus bill represents the joint efforts of many Maryland residents, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists and law-makers. This wide-sweeping bill not only increases revenue but increases accessibility and opportunities for many individuals to participate in outdoor recreational activities across the state.

- Community Outreach for Hunting & Conservation: Provides access to communities that have historically not been included or had access to hunting & conservation programs.
- Revenue: The hunting community has agreed to raise fees imposed on themselves via Licensing & Stamp fee increases which will result in an additional \$8mil due to federal matching fund programs.
- Use of Funds: the increased revenues will be used to purchase more lands, hire more staff for DNR, and habitat restoration
- Address the overpopulation of White-tailed Deer throughout the state on public & private lands
- The creation of the sika deer stamp/permit
- Clarify & Strengthen CH523 regarding the liability of landowners who allow hunting on their private lands
- Allowance of Sunday hunting for Migratory Game Birds

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carl F. Wagner
Executive Director
Maryland Sportsmen's Foundation

Stephen R. Holt
Asst. Director
Maryland Sportsmen's Foundation

