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Office of the President

**Hagerstown Community College
Senate Bill 327 – Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
2/15/2023**

**Testimony Submitted by
Dr. James Klauber**

Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 327. Hagerstown Community College is in support of this legislation.


As a hunter, outdoorsman, and enthusiast of sound wildlife management, who happens to serve as a college president, this is a very good bill. Specifically, I support the provision to allow nonresident college students to obtain an inresident hunting permit with their college identification card.

With the loss of natural predators, hunting wild game allows for its populations to be contained to a reasonable level. I am afraid there are not enough hunters to get the job done these days. Chronic Wasting Disease in deer is a serious problem caused principally by overpopulation. We need to educate a new generation of hunters to strike a necessary balance in deer population. This bill opens the opportunity to not only recruit students from other states, but to educate them on the value, fun, and excitement that hunting creates.

As an addition, it might be time to address the movement of wild boar into the region. I am not aware that Maryland has any provisions for hunting wild hogs. This invasive species wreaks havoc on agricultural operations across much of the Southern United States. They are gradually moving into Western Maryland. While the current populations are very low, they are in all of our neighboring states, and they multiply rapidly. We need to do a better job of promoting hunting and killing of these animals within our gaming community.

Thank you for your work on this valuable legislation. If I can provide any further assistance or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,


Dr. James Klauber
President