



February 14, 2023

Senate Department of Education, Energy and the Environment
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 320

Dear Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation (MAWC). MAWC is an umbrella organization founded in Maryland in 1976, for sporting groups who use beagles, bassets, foxhounds, and other scent hounds in sporting endeavors, both mounted and unmounted (also referred to as Maryland's chasing community). MAWC represents over a dozen clubs with more than 1,000 members throughout our great state.

MAWC and the chasing community, at large, have been actively represented on the Wildlife Advisory Commission many times over the last several decades, most recently by The Honorable Joseph Michael from Boonsboro. Judge Michael was appointed by Governor Martin O' Malley in 2013, again by Governor Larry Hogan in 2019, and served until required to resign his seat last March, upon being named a Circuit Court Judge of Washington County.

Maryland's chasing community forms a significant portion of Maryland's active recreational and sporting wildlife activity participants. Now that a proposal is being made to specifically designate seats on the Commission, our organization feels it is important that our continued representation be codified.

Pursuant to this, 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, MAWC requests a favorable report on SB 320.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Sponseller Webster
Association Manager
Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation (MAWC)