



Maryland Bowhunters Society

P.O.Box 21

Willards , Maryland 21874

March 8 2023

Good afternoon Mr Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen of the committee,

My name is Maribeth Kulynych and I am the executive secretary for the Maryland Bowhunters Society. I am testifying on behalf of the organization. MBS is in support of SB 796 (Wicomico county-natural resources hunting) in reference to expanding Sunday hunting and decreasing the 50 yard zone for archery.

Archery is considered one of the safest means of hunting and statistics stand by that. In archery the distance for taking an ethical shot is greatly decreased when compared to traditional firearms. It is also imperative for an archer to have a clear view of their target because something as small as a branch or even a vine can interfere with the flight of an arrow. Archery requires patience, precision, and timing to execute a clean shot. This means that shots taken during archery hunts are considered safer as the archer has time to survey their surroundings fully before taking a shot.

I am a hunter but I am also an equestrian, certified riding instructor, and trail guide. We ride year round, several times a week on public land and have never had a dangerous experience with a member of the hunting community. Every time we have encountered a hunter we have had great conversation and continue our ride without incident. We keep the seasons in mind and wear fluorescent orange as an added measure of safety. In all my experience both parties have shown nothing but respect for each other. It is refreshing to see people, who some imagine are on different ends of the spectrum, get along so well.

MBS is also in full support of the expansion of Sunday hunting in Worcester county. The majority of hunters work throughout the week, and with hectic school and sports schedules, often Saturdays and Sundays are the only chance to enjoy the outdoors. Today's youth spend more

time in front of their screens than ever before. The more chances we give them to get away from their phones and out in nature can benefit families immensely.

It is also worth noting that the deer population across Maryland is substantial. This leads to dangerous vehicular accidents as well as damage to crops. It has been shown that the most effective means of keeping the deer population in check is during regular hunting seasons. Many would say that crop damage permits are the answer, but the timing of deer seasons is crucial. The season is held when fawns are old enough to survive on their own and ends before does reach full gestation. Crop damage permits filled over the spring and summer can often lead to some pretty sad situations for does and fawns. And the temperature is so warm it makes retrieving the meat a real difficulty. Allowing these Sunday hunting opportunities would expand the efforts to keep population numbers at a sustainable level. And deter further efforts to seek more extreme means such as night time crop damage hunting. And most importantly provide food for many families who may be struggling to get by with the prices at the grocery store steadily climbing.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Maribeth Kulynycz
MBS Executive Secretary