



Maryland Grain Producers Association  
210 Fallen Horse Circle, Suite 100, Queenstown, MD 21658  
Lindsay.mdag@gmail.com (p) 443-262-8491  
www.marylandgrain.com

Date: March 8, 2023

Senate Bill 155 - Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

MGPA Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. MGPA supports Senate Bill 155 which authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow hunting on Sundays in Prince George's County for game birds and mammals on private property. The bill also decreases the archery hunting "safety zone" in Prince George's County from 150 yards to 50 yards.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates that farmers experience over \$10 million in crop damage annually with 75% of that being attributed to deer. Maryland's deer population was estimated to be just over 200,000 white-tailed deer in 2022. There is 34,399 acres of farmland in production in Prince George's County and the value of grain grown is \$4.35M.

Other counties that currently have the 50 yard archery safety zone are Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Washington counties. DNR releases a report of hunting accidents and there have been no archery accidents when an arrow injured a non-intended target besides those self-inflicted by hunters falling on their bow. In areas of higher density development like Prince George's County, decreasing the archery safety zone would be beneficial for hunting opportunity.

MGPA respectfully requests your favorable report on Senate Bill 155.