



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 15, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps – SB 327 - Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps – SB 327.

This bill would alter the purpose of the Heritage Conservation Fund to include acquiring interests in land that can be used by the general public for hunting; establishing the Wildlife Conservation, Education, and Outreach Program to provide to outreach and foster an interest in outdoor recreation and stewardship, hunting, and wildlife conservation; establishing a stamp for hunting sika deer; authorizing a nonresident attending a college or university in the State to purchase a resident hunting license; altering the fees charged for certain hunting and trapping licenses, permits, and stamps; codifying and altering the fees charged for a nonresident trapping license and a group furbearer permit; codifying the fee charged for an individual furbearer permit; authorizing a person to hunt migratory game birds on Sundays; altering the purposes for which the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund may be used; requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to develop a plan to address the overpopulation of deer in the State; requiring that a portion of an increase in certain funding be used for new Position Identification Numbers for the Department of Natural Resources relating to hunting, wildlife conservation, and outdoor recreation.

This bill covers a wide range of constituencies and programs to accomplish its goals. We support the programs and many facets of this bill that would improve the relationship between people and wildlife in our state. The funds raised by this legislation would be used for programs that address issues we hear about from Marylanders such as addressing the overpopulation of deer in Maryland. By establishing a comprehensive Wildlife Conservation, Education, and Outreach Program to provide outreach and foster an interest in outdoor recreation and stewardship, hunting, and wildlife conservation, our state engages current stakeholders and ensures that the next generation of Marylanders is equipped with the information and resources to deal with issues facing Maryland and wildlife.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Elfreth for her sponsorship of SB 327 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.