



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 8, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Dorchester County - Hunting - Fur-Bearing Mammals – HB 1119 - Oppose

Chair Barve, Vice - Chair Stein, members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. 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 the State of Maryland, I respectfully ask that the House Environment & Transportation Committee give an unfavorable vote to Dorchester County - Hunting - Fur-Bearing Mammals HB 1119.

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to establish a year-round open season for the hunting of fur-bearing mammals in Dorchester County. It would remove certain limitations on the hunting of fur-bearing mammals on Sundays in Dorchester County and authorize a person to hunt fur-bearing mammals on public land in Dorchester County designated for hunting by the Department of Natural Resources on certain Sundays.

Maryland Votes for Animals is concerned about establishment of a year-round open hunting season for one county. We are also concerned about setting a precedent to allow fur-bearing mammals to be hunted on Sundays during the fur-bearing mammal season as this may not reflect the wishes of all of the residents of the County. Many families enjoy Sundays in public places as time for family hiking. Moreover, people who ride horses enjoy Sundays and do not want the concern of hunters in their midst posing a danger to them or their horses. Dorchester County is not so different from the other Maryland County that it needs this additional time to hunt fur-bearing mammals.

I urge the committee to give HB 1119 an unfavorable vote to HB 1119.

