



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 3, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans – HB 954- 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 Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans – HB 954.

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to establish an annual tundra swan hunting season if authorized by federal law; requiring the Department to request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorize an annual tundra swan hunting season in the State and provide the Department with a certain number of permits to take tundra swan annually; requiring the Department to distribute tundra swan permits annually using a lottery-based system under certain circumstances; and generally relating to a tundra swan hunt in the State.

Tundra Swans are monogamous, and a mated pair will remain together for life. Therefore, killing one of a pair impacts the mate, as well.

Maryland Votes for Animals opposes adding this species to the list of birds killed during a hunting season. Tundra Swans are monogamous, and a mated pair will remain together for life. Therefore, killing one of a pair impacts the mate and the possibility of having future offspring. Very few states allow the hunting of Tundra Swans. Maryland already has a robust list of birds to hunt without adding this species.

I urge the committee to give HB 954 an unfavorable vote.

