

## **HB 1118 - Repealing Time Restrictions – Sunday Hunting - UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

There are so many reasons to “say no” to HB 1118! Below is just a sampling:

- Hunting accidents are grossly underreported and DNR is already short-staffed, especially on Sundays, when officers also like to spend time with their families.
- Property lines **between public and private** properties are not well delineated.
- Fear of being involved in a hunting accident often deters people from enjoying the outdoors, either in a public park, or in own backyards.
- Being outside, in nature, has many health benefits: doctors are now handing out “green prescriptions”! Any obstacle to thwart outside recreation outside should be avoided.
- DNR reports a 40% increase in the use of state parks in 2020. A growing population will exacerbate the issue of possible conflicts with hunters.
- property boundaries **of adjoining private properties** are often **more** difficult to ascertain than park boundaries.
- **what a person does on his own property affects what his neighbors can do on their adjoining property** - from dog walking to birdwatching.
- the deer population is stable, if not declining (as evidenced by decreased DNR bag limits)
- an increase in Sunday hunting might well cause spending to be reduced by non-hunting **"Wildlife Watchers" who, according to US Fish and Wildlife Service 2016 report, now make up 83% of the population and out-spend hunters 3:1.**
- A Gonzales Maryland Survey shows that 59% of Republicans, 72% of Democrats, and 74% unaffiliated voters oppose Sunday hunting. Less than 2% of Marylanders hold hunting permits. Since a large majority of voters oppose hunting on Sunday, it is clear that this bill should be defeated. **This is a bill of convenience for the 2% in Maryland who hunt.**

Respectfully submitted, Joyce and Wayne Bell, 6682 J Oren Road (Talbot County), MD 21601