



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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February 8, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Natural Resources- Wildlife Advisory Commission- Membership - HB 188 – Support

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 Chairman 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 vote favorably for Natural Resources- Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership - HB 188.

This bill would define the membership of Maryland's Wildlife Advisory Commission to include biologists, conservationists, and recreational users as well as hunters to make balanced decisions regarding hunting, trapping, and fishing. The current Wildlife Advisory Commission has nine members but no representation from individuals with a background in academic research with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology.

The Wildlife Advisory Commission must have representation from the farming, hunting or fishing, wildlife preservation, and wildlife recreation communities to make informed decisions from a variety of perspectives and experiences in order to best serve the needs of all stakeholders.

Maryland's wildlife is counting on us to make the Wildlife Advisory Commission a place where their interests are represented.

Thanks to Delegate Palakovich Carr for sponsoring this legislation. I urge the committee for a favorable report on HB 188.