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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
2 West Annapolis, Md 21401

RE: Opposed to Senate Bill 983 Hunting- Lead and Lead Based Ammunition- Phase Out

Dear, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

My name is Peter Heller and I am in **opposition of Senate Bill 983 Lead and Lead Based Ammunition- Phase Out**

I am a lifelong resident of Chestertown Md, avid hunter, conservationist, and landowner. I am writing to you with my opposition to Senate Bill 983. There are many repercussions from this bill that concern me, but I will just focus on a few of them. The first is by passing this bill you will make the ability to hunt small game and deer even less equitable than it currently is in Maryland. Hunting is already a very expensive sport and by making lead shot no longer available for use the cost of steel or non toxic loads more than doubles in price. There also becomes an issue of access to ammo and supply. Currently ammunition makers focus the bulk of their production on lead based ammunition due to its affordability and common use nationwide. If they are not focused on making steel or non toxic loads in all types of rounds used for hunting in Maryland there will be a shortage. By having this shortage, you will take away the ability for some to hunt due to the fact they cannot get the steel or non toxic loads needed while also driving the prices even higher due to the demand. If this bill were to pass, the rich history and heritage of hunting in this great state would be compromised forever.

Therefore I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 983 Hunting- Lead and Lead Based Ammunition- Phase Out

Sincerely,

Peter D. Heller Jr.
Vice President, Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Association