

Good Afternoon Chairman Korman,
Vice Chairman Boyce and members of the Committee,

Hello, My name is Albie Kimble, I have been a resident of the Eastern Shore of Maryland for some 64 years. I am here today, because I understand there is a renewed effort to adopt Sunday Waterfowl hunting in Maryland. I would like to speak against this for a variety of reasons. The proponents of this effort will tell you that it will benefit the working people, as they can only hunt on weekends. They will also have you believe it is for the kids, because they have school, and can only hunt on weekends. Hunting waterfowl in Maryland is a privilege, not a right. And as such, those who wish to participate can manage their schedule to include that. As for the kids, well, I am of the opinion they are just being used as an excuse for the adults to spend additional days in the field. There are numerous opportunities throughout the season for the kids, along with their parents, to spend time in a blind. This rejuvenated effort is also being made at a time when we are experiencing a reduction in shooting days for AP Canada geese. The current harvest package only allows for 30 days, and was adopted because of a critical reduction in breeding pairs. Adding additional Sunday hunting days seems counter productive in my eyes. As structured, those Sundays would have to run concurrent through the season splits, resulting in a shorter overall season. Folks would like you to believe, they can only get out on weekends. The reality is, they will continue hunt as they have been, only now, they wish to add an additional day. Without a doubt, this will result in more pressure and higher kill totals. The Chesapeake Region is a very unique area. The hunting pressure is unprecedented. The waterfowl here, need at least one day of rest and relief weekly, a break from the constant shooting and disruption. They could actually use more. People will also remark, "well they allow it for Deer hunting". It is not nearly the same. First of all, deer populations and crop damage are out of hand and need to be reduced. Unlike waterfowl hunting, deer hunting is mostly done by individuals. Frequently done in the confines of woodlands and does not generally affect the neighbors who choose not to participate. Waterfowl hunting affects the adjacent landowners management practices as well. Those wanting to offer a day of rest on their own property are not really able to do so, because of the open proximity to one another. At least with the same effectiveness. Puddle ducks, primarily Mallards, have so much existing pressure on them that they have become mostly nocturnal. The last thing they need is an added hunting day. The shooting and disturbance would be relentless.

In summary, I believe the persistent pressure, as the result of adding Sunday hunting will be detrimental to an already fragile ecosystem. The juice is not nearly worth the squeeze.

My opinions and observations are based upon 50 plus years spent in the field. Not only shooting, but observing, studying, photographing and managing one of the the most spectacular and important resources in the state. I urge you to say no, once again, and to Reject any and all Sunday waterfowl hunting practices.

Thank you all, for your time and consideration,

Albie Kimble.....