



P.O. Box 501
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SUPPORT

House Bill 778 (Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting – Migratory Game Birds)

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND, LLC represent the interests of Maryland's hunting community at both the State and local level. Few realize that hunters underwrite almost 100% of all wildlife management and research costs through their purchase of hunting licenses, stamps, and equipment. For the record: (1) hunters do so willingly b/c of **American System of Conservation Funding**, a user-pay model celebrating its 85th Anniversary which also underscores the noble story of hunters as America's original conservationists; and (2) hunting in Maryland is a powerful economic engine as noted in the link below.

<https://sportsmensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-Economic-Impact-of-Hunting-and-Shooting-Technical-Report-V2.pdf>

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HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND, LLC support House Bill 778 which would repeal the current statutory prohibition re Sunday hunting of migratory game birds. Our reasoning is reflected below.

Overwhelming majority of hunters in Maryland support Sunday waterfowl hunting (DNR can provide survey results [Virginia-based *Responsive Management* research/consulting firm] indicating same.

Hunters -- not taxpayers -- continue to pay the lion's share of wildlife management costs, aka Chapters 543/544 of 2023 (hunting license fee increase from last year) = and they want Sunday waterfowl hunting.

Today's youth need inspiration to be afield...Sunday waterfowl hunting might serve as the requisite inspiration and would be consistent with and responsive to the nationwide 3 R's Initiative, aka, Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.

Virginia has reported no detrimental impact on Sunday waterfowl hunting recently enacted there.

Resident + nonresident hunting license/stamp sales will measurably increase to the benefit of wildlife management in Maryland because all the dollars realized are credited to the DNR administered *State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund* (§10-209 NR). The purpose of the Fund "is to finance the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of wildlife."