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Legislative District 35B
Cecil County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Local Revenues Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Chair, Cecil County House Delegation



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The Honorable Chair Marc Korman
Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
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February 21st, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and fellow Committee Members.

I come before you today presenting House Bill 778 Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds. This may be the simplest bill you hear this session as it seeks to remove the word NOT from language pertaining to hunting of migratory birds on Sundays. This enabling legislation allows the DNR to structure the hunting season how they see fit and puts us in the same posture as 44 other states.

Passage of this bill will not impact Sunday waterfowl hunting prohibition in the following counties:

Baltimore City

Baltimore County

Howard County

Prince George's County

as they have already explicitly opted out. They could be added in the future if they choose but this would require passage of a local delegation bill to opt in.

In concert with the AG's office we found the first reference to this blue law language from Chapter 1 of 1678, "no person shall profane or abuse the said Lords day by drunkenness, swearing, gaming or hunting or any other unlawful sports or recreations".

Much has changed since 1678 however Sportsmen and Women are still discriminated against by this anachronistic law. The DNR has surveyed a broad spectrum of their customers and the option to hunt waterfowl on Sunday is overwhelmingly supported as you will hear in their testimony. We have assembled a compelling panel of subject matter experts and prominent activist organizations to field any questions of the committee. We hope that you will move favorable on this bill. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hornberger".

Delegate Kevin Hornberger
District 35B, Cecil County