



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** Support of HB0481 - Natural Resources - Antlerless Deer Hunting Programs – Authorization

On behalf of the nearly 9,500 Farm Bureau families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of HB0481. The purpose of this bill is to authorize a person to receive a raffle ticket for each antlerless deer hunted by the person during a raffle program that (1) is held in January; (2) has as its objective the hunting of antlerless deer; and (3) was previously held at least once from January 1, 2020, through January 30, 2024, inclusive.

Currently Maryland farmers take the brunt of the state's overpopulated deer herd. According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Maryland farmers face up to 10 million dollars in estimated economic loss from wildlife damage. Of this economic loss, 77% of the damage is caused by deer. This crop damage causes great financial hardship on Maryland Farmers. Recreational hunting is not the solution to the industry's deer problem.

MDFB Policy: The crop damage and human health issues resulting from the state's overpopulation of deer are of major concern to Maryland's farmers... We urge the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to explore, develop and implement effective, innovative practices to control the deer population in our state.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports HB0481**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

*Please Reach out to Tyler Hough at (443) 878-4045 with any questions*