

Please vote against SB796, the Dorchester Sunday Hunting bill 2025-02

Good afternoon! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, owner of a lovely 12 Ac backyard farm in Laurel, MD who over very many years has very often ridden and organized trial rides in Carroll County.

Again this year, there is a Dorchester County Sunday hunting bill. So again, we average citizens are here testifying that it is completely unfair of the well-funded hunting industry – which already has 6 days a week for shooting lethal weapons outdoors – to try to get the 7th day, which traditionally has been reserved as the only day of the week for the other 98% of the population who are not hunters to enjoy our area's lovely green areas without the fear of being shot at.

Back 25 years ago when Sunday Hunting was first being seriously lobbied for, then-Governor Parris Glendinning expressed precisely those sentiments in a very well-worded and impassioned plea -- to retain that one safe-outside day. And it is even more true today, when the value of outdoor exercise and communing with nature is even more recognized.

I will not reiterate – but 100% endorse – the data and arguments Jane Siegler Christy Claggett and others will be presenting.

I just want to note that I am one of the many outdoor enthusiasts who has been shot at while recreating – in fact, shot at on three separate occasions, including a lethal hunting arrow zipping less than 2 feet from my ear – and it is not a fun experience. Evidently none of those “great hunters” recognized that my white riding helmet, orange safety vest, and white horse below me do not look exactly like a five point deer. One of my favorite Delegates here in Annapolis had a similar experience of being shot at while recruiting in an area park.

Let me also point out that if hunters are so unsuccessful in the 6 days/week they already have and endanger non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts, why think the 7th day will solve any deer problem?

Maybe the bill advocates live in an area so rural that their proposed increased hunting would not endanger neighbors, but other parts of Dorchester County, private property abuts right near to where people use their property. And projectiles from firearms do not stop at property boundaries. It seems most inappropriate and dangerous to take away the one day a week when outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy with outdoors without fear of being shot at.

Please, vote against SB796, to keep Sunday safe for the vast majority of the population, non-hunters, who want to be able to recreate outdoors without the fear of being shot at on one day per week, when hunters have already claimed the other six days.