



Maryland Grain Producers Association
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Senate Bill 272 - Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery
Hunting Safety Zones

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

MGPA Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) represents grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley, and sorghum throughout the state. MGPA supports Senate Bill 272, which would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to permit deer hunting on private property in Prince George's County every Sunday during the deer bow hunting season. Additionally, the bill reduces the archery safety zone from 150 yards to 50 yards.

In 2012, the National Agricultural Statistics Service estimated that farmers experience over \$10 million in crop damage annually, with 75% of that damage attributed to deer. Adjusted for inflation, this would equate to over \$13.6 million in crop damage in 2024. The deer population density in Maryland exceeds the capacity of suitable habitat, creating conflicts not only for farmers but also for drivers and homeowners. Responsible hunting and the use of depredation permits are effective methods for addressing deer overpopulation.

By allowing deer hunting on Sundays during bow season in Prince George's County, the bill would increase harvest opportunities while minimizing potential conflicts with other outdoor recreation activities. Reducing the safety zone would also expand huntable acres without increasing risk, as arrows are typically shot downward from tree stands.

MGPA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 272.

Thank you,

Lindsay Thompson
Executive Director