



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 31, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of SB0272 – Prince George’s County - Natural Resources – Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of SB0272 – Prince George’s County - Natural Resources – Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones. The purpose of this bill is to allow Sunday deer hunting in Prince George’s County for Archery only, and to modify the Archery Hunting Safety Zones to 50 yards.

Deer damage is a major problem facing our Maryland Farmers. In the last time that the USDA surveyed Maryland farmers regarding crop damage, deer were responsible for roughly 77 percent. Based on discussions with farmers statewide, it is estimated that average deer damage costs the farmer roughly \$50 per acre. Considering that Maryland has more than 1.2 million crop acres, deer could be causing as much as \$60 million in damage yearly.

Legislation that would allow for Prince George’s County, one of only three remaining counties that does not allow Sunday Hunting, hunters to have more time in the woods, and more opportunities to harvest deer. Modifying the archery safety zone to 50 yards, such as it is in multiple other counties, would again allow for more opportunities for hunters. One of the main solutions for deer damage in our state is to get more hunters in the woods, and more hunters harvesting deer.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB0272

Sincerely,

Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions