



## Maryland Bowhunters Society

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February 4th, 2025

THE HONORABLE BRIAN J. FELDMAN

Chair, Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

HONORABLE MEMBERS

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 272 (Prince George's County - Natural Resources -  
Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones)

My name is Maribeth Kulynycz, I am the Executive Secretary of the Maryland Bowhunter's Society (MBS), in support of SB 272. MBS is an organization that has been dedicated to preserving the history and ensuring the future of archery and bowhunting in Maryland since 1977. MBS promotes and provides safety and education for all who wish to enjoy the outdoors.

Archery is considered one of the safest means of hunting and statistics stand by that. In archery the distance for taking an ethical shot is greatly decreased when compared to traditional firearms. Arrows are usually sent from an elevated platform, at that angle the flight of the arrow does not continue, the arrow will stick into the ground once it is released. These aspects allow bowhunters to utilize much smaller tracts of land safely. Archery requires patience, precision, and timing. Those who bow hunt do not take the responsibility lightly and the lack of incident reports across the country attests to that.

Most people in today's economy have to work 5 or 6 days a week. Kids are in school, and Saturdays are filled with sports and family events. Sunday is often the only day people

are free to enjoy the outdoors. And many land owners would like the opportunity to bow hunt on their only day off.

This bill is specifically for private land. Those landowners, who have invested time and money into buying and maintaining their property, have rights. And they would like to be allowed to make the decision to hunt Sundays on their own land. And especially take the opportunity to get their kids outdoors. So many of today's youth are stuck inside and glued to a phone screen. They need opportunities to be in nature, to run, jump, move, learn new skills, and expand their knowledge in ways technology can not provide. With safe and educated mentors and family members at their side, this gives them a chance to learn about traditions and the ways of people who walked this land long before us.

It is important to note that there are very few natural predators in the state of Maryland. Research shows that hunting is the best means we have to help maintain a healthy deer herd. Healthy is the key word, when the land can not sustain the animals we encounter many other problems, like disease, automobile accidents, and crop damage. And this leads to extreme means of thinning the herd like night time crop damage shooting and hiring sharp shooters.

Sunday bow hunting gives more people an opportunity to be successful in the efforts to keep that healthy balance. And allows them the freedom to enjoy nature and make memories with their families on their own land.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Maribeth Kulynycz

Maryland Bowhunters Society Executive Secretary