



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 634

Hunting - Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management

Date: March 4, 2025

To: Education, Environment, and the Environment Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Matt Stegman,
MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 634 which will, among other provisions, phase out the use of lead-based ammunition by hunters on or before July 1, 2029.

Lead (Pb) is toxic and is banned from gasoline, paints, and various household items in most developed countries. Lead ammunition, however, is still widely used for hunting and shooting, and is now likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead that is knowingly discharged into the environment in the United States.¹

Scientists across North America and Europe have published consensus statements on the risks to wildlife, the environment, and human health from the use of lead ammunition and the need for its replacement by non-toxic alternatives. Lead has the potential to be bioaccumulated through the food chain to higher concentrations. In fact, the Center for Disease Control affirms that there is no safe level of lead for children.²

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 634.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment—A Consensus Statement of Scientists [2013](#); U.S. Geological Survey [2013](#).

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faqs/lead-faqs.htm>

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.