

Susan Gray
6510 Paper Place
Highland, Maryland 20777
March 10, 2025

Re: HB832 Sunday Hunting in Carroll County

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce, and all the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am Susan Gray, an outdoors lover and equestrian. I represent myself and My Ladies Manor Driving Club-a Baltimore County based 501(c)(3) organization with numerous members residing and driving in Carroll County. We oppose the passage of HB832 (Carroll County Sunday hunting). Please consider the following:

- Carriage/pony cart driving is a growing equestrian sport practiced by kids, the elderly, all ages in between, and physically challenged individuals. It is one of those sports you can transition into when the joints ache and you can't lift your leg high enough to swing into a saddle. It's a blast, for the youngest to the oldest, and if you have a big enough cart and pony, you can even take your friends and family driving with you.
- But.....there are very few places to drive in Maryland. Morgan Run, in Carroll County, is a Maryland designated driving park.
- It is also a great place to ride as well as to bird watch, take the dog for a walk or just get out and enjoy the outdoors!
- Because of the paucity of driving venues in Maryland, it is important to retain Morgan Run was a safe place to drive and recreate at least one day a week (Sunday). As it is, because there are many more safe driving venues in adjacent states, My Ladies Manor Driving Club holds many of its events in PA or VA, forcing Maryland residents to travel quite a distance, with the revenues and goodwill generated by the events going to these other states.
- Morgan Run is particularly vulnerable to hazards posed by hunting. The park is in a very low density rural area where there is a lot of hunting on three sides on all days of the week, except Sundays.

- Sunday has been the only day of the week during all the hunting seasons that riders and drivers feel safe to use Carroll County parks for recreation, because on the other days we fear being shot by a firearm or bow aimed into the park from the private property abutting the trails of the park, many of which (such as with Morgan Run) run rather near the boundary between the parkland and that abutting private property.
- These projectiles do not respect property boundaries but can travel very far into abutting parkland.
- Hunters already have 6 days of the week to hunt; Sunday has traditionally been the one day of the week that the rest of us can feel comfortable in our area parks without fear of being shot at from neighboring private property.
- I should note that for many of you who have been in the Legislature for quite a number of years, you may recall lots and lots of equestrians testifying against Sunday hunting bills in the past. Please do not take the fact that there are not numerous individuals testifying against Sunday hunting bills now as indicating there is less interest in keeping Sundays hunting free. What has changed is that historically the equestrian advocacy organization TROT (Trail Riders of Today, founded as a 501(c)(3) in 1983) worked very, very hard (and successfully) to get its members out to oppose Sunday hunting bills the past. Unfortunately, this advocacy organization, with trail rides ancillary to its advocacy purpose, a number of years ago changed from being an advocacy organization, to being a social riding club

Please do not support SB417.

Very truly yours,
Susan Gray