

My name is Liuda Galinaitis and I have been a Carroll County resident for 49 years. I am opposed to House Bill 832.

Carroll County is home to over 6000 horses with 1700 stables. 41,500 acres are dedicated to equines which accounts for 30% of farmland in Carroll. The equine industry therefore plays a major role in keeping our rural character. Carroll horse owners spend over \$13 million dollars yearly. And while some owners participate in racing, fox chasing, showing or the state sport of jousting, the number 1 equine pastime is trail riding. Did you know someone from almost 10% of MD households trail rides and 87% of these riders use public lands?

The current MD hunting calendar shows there is an open season all year. Sunday hunting would mean year round Sunday hunting. Currently Sunday hunting for deer is allowed during the firearms and bow seasons. Hunting does intensify in the fall which is a preferred season for trail riders with less mud and insects with moderate weather. The vast majority of riders, including myself, do not wish to ride when there is hunting. A surprise gunshot can spook even the most well-trained horse and an errant bullet can enter a park, a neighboring property or a road. It also impacts others such as walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, photographers, nature lovers and bird watchers. Hunters already have Saturdays and the other days of the week to enjoy their hobby. Some parks have certain days of the week reserved for hunting which gets confusing. Why not designate Sundays as the day everyone else knows as the non-hunting day on the calendar? Individuals, families and friends can safely use the parks without worrying if it is a hunting day.