

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 17, 2025

Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is John Weber, and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to HB 741

HB 741 prohibits the use of lead ammunition when hunting. The use of lead ammunition is under attack by anti-hunting and anti-gun extremists who ignore science and misinform policymakers and the public on the effects of extremely small amounts of lead. In truth, these extremists want lead ammunition banned because it discourages participation in hunting and shooting.

Traditional ammunition is significantly cheaper than its alternatives and easier to find. Banning lead ammunition will make the supply chain problem of any type of ammunition much worse. Further, the alternatives to lead ammunition can be less lethal (and therefore less ethical for hunting) and generally are not better for the environment.

In the United States, wildlife biologists do not manage wildlife based on single mortality incidents or emotions, but instead on science and population data. Our country's wildlife management practices are based on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is widely recognized as the best in the world. For more than a century, wildlife has been successfully managed through this model and has led to the restoration of multiple species. Lastly, a decrease in the purchase of traditional ammunition would adversely affect conservation funding. Hunters are the largest supporters of conservation through excise taxes levied on ammunition, firearms, and hunting equipment by the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937

On behalf of NRA's members in Maryland, we respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

John Weber  
NRA-ILA State Director