

My name is Gina Miller, and I have been a lifelong resident of Carroll County. I strongly oppose the Sunday hunting bills. As a dedicated horse owner since 2000, with two horses currently in my care, I believe that Sunday should remain a safe, non-hunting day for all outdoor enthusiasts.

As a trail rider, I avoid riding during hunting days because the sudden crack of gunfire can startle horses, causing them to spook—an extremely dangerous situation for riders. Additionally, as a woman, encountering armed individuals in the park is unsettling. The risk of stray bullets poses a real danger not only to horseback riders but also to hikers, walkers, and nature lovers who rely on public lands for recreation.

Carroll County's equine industry is a vital part of our local economy, generating over \$13 million annually. With more than 6,000 horses and 1,700 stables, equine-related activities account for 30% of the county's farmland. Nearly 10% of Maryland households engage in trail riding, and 87% of these riders depend on public lands. Preserving safe access to these spaces is crucial.

Maryland's hunting calendar already provides hunters with opportunities year-round, allowing six days a week for their sport. Designating Sundays as a non-hunting day ensures that residents who seek peace and safety in the outdoors can continue to do so. I urge lawmakers to protect this balance and keep Sundays free from hunting.