

Please vote against HB832, the Carroll Sunday Hunting bill 2025-02

I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, who for very many years has very often ridden in and organized trail rides in the many gorgeous riding venues in Carroll County.

Again this year, there are a plethora of Sunday hunting bill. So again, we average citizens are here testifying that it is completely unfair of the well-funded hunting industry – which already has 6 days a week for shooting lethal weapons outdoors – to try to get the 7th day, which traditionally has been reserved as the only day of the week for the non-hunter 98% of the population to enjoy our area's lovely green areas without the fear of being shot at. Carroll County is especially important to non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts because it has many of the best riding (and hiking) venues of the state, including Morgan run. McKeldin, Patapsco, Union Mills, Piney Run, Liberty and Gillis Falls, all of which I have ridden at -- but only on Sundays, to avoid the fear of getting shot at, since the other days, hunting is permitted on abutting private land. And as you surely appreciate, hunting projectiles do not stop at the property boundaries but far too often fly into abutting public parkland, where many trails are near the property boundary.

Indeed, I am one of the many outdoor enthusiasts who has been recreating in a public area but shot at by a hunter from abutting private land. In fact, I have been that way shot at on three separate occasions, including a lethal projectile zipping less than 2 feet from my ear – it is not fun! Maybe those “great hunters” thought my white riding helmet, orange safety vest, and white horse below me looked like a five-point deer? One of my favorite Delegates here in Annapolis had a similar experience of being shot at while recruiting in an area park.

Back 25 years ago when Sunday Hunting was first being seriously lobbied for, then-Governor Parris Glendening expressed precisely those sentiments in a very well-worded and impassioned plea -- to retain that one safe-outside day. And it is even more true today, when the value of outdoor exercise and communing with nature is even more recognized.

I will not reiterate – but 100% endorse – the data and arguments Jane Siegler, Christy Claggett and others will be presenting but want to stress the report's data showing that adding Sunday hunting does not increase the total weekly deer “take”. If hunters are so unsuccessful in the 6 days/week they already have and endanger non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts, why think the 7th day will solve any deer problem?

Maybe the bill advocates live in an area so rural that their proposed increased hunting would not endanger neighbors, but Carroll County's myriad wonderful parks are a destination riding venue for so many residents of the state, and many of the trails in those parks are well within firing range of the abutting private property. It this seems most inappropriate -- and dangerous -- to take away the one day a week when outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy with outdoors without fear of being shot at by the tiny percentage of the population who are hunters.

Please, vote against HB832, to keep Sunday safe for the other 98% of the population, us non-hunters, who want to be able to recreate outdoors without the fear of being shot at on one day per week, since hunters have already claimed the other six days