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House Bill 716 - Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors - Private Property Access – Prohibition

Committee: Economic Matters

MGPA Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 716 which would prohibit a land surveyor or property line surveyor from entering private property during deer firearms hunting season without the written permission of the property owner.

For many Maryland grain farmers, the firearms deer season is not only an important wildlife management period but also a time when hunter lease their farms for hunting. Unexpected entry onto actively hunted agricultural property creates real and immediate safety risks and conflicts with hunters who may have their hunts interrupted with unexpected, third-party entrants.

HB 716 provides a reasonable, common-sense safeguard by ensuring that property owners retain control over access during a limited and clearly defined period when firearms are in use. Written permission simply formalizes communication and awareness, helping avoid accidents while preserving the ability of surveyors to perform their work at appropriate times.

Importantly, HB 716 does not prevent surveys from occurring; it only requires written permission during firearms deer season. This balanced approach allows necessary boundary and property work to continue while prioritizing safety and communication with landowners. This bill affirms the fundamental principle that landowners should be informed and give consent before others access their property during this high-risk period.

For Maryland's grain farmers, many of whom steward thousands of acres across multiple parcels, this clarity is both practical and necessary. Advance notice and permission ensure that survey work can be scheduled safely outside active hunting times or coordinated appropriately with the landowner.

Conclusion

HB 716 is a narrowly tailored bill that enhances safety, respects private property rights, and promotes better coordination between survey professionals and landowners. For these reasons, the Maryland Grain Producers Association urges a favorable report on HB 716.

Thank you,

Lindsay Thompson

Executive Director