



The County Commissioners of Kent County

Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS Senate Bill 0643 Natural Resources – Hunting –
Management (Cross-filed with House Bill 1063)

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, this letter serves as support for Senate Bill 0643, Natural Resources – Hunting – Management, with amendments. The Commissioners believe that Sundays provide a reliable day of rest for migratory fowl, and additional disturbance on that day would likely affect the flight and feeding behavior of geese and ducks, contributing to lower hunt quality. The bill, as drafted, removes the current Sunday prohibition and allows for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine regulations for Sunday migratory hunting. The bill also directs the DNR to permit Sunday Canada Goose hunting for youth, seniors, and students, potentially opening Sunday hunting for all migratory species. If Sunday access is limited to the named groups, other hunters lose 4–8 days of opportunity, and those who rely solely on public land lose the same number of days.

While increased access may be appropriate for overpopulated species, such as deer that cause significant crop damage, there is no comparable overpopulation issue with waterfowl. Conservation of the resource should take precedence over hunter preference. For these reasons, Kent County respectfully urges amendments to Senate Bill 0643.

Very truly yours,

Shelley L. Heller
County Administrator

SLH: smb

cc: The County Commissioners of Kent County
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist