



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 7

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 643, *Natural Resources - Hunting - Management*

Dear Chair Feldman,

I write in support of SB 643, *Natural Resources – Hunting – Management* and an amendment to remove the sections governing waterfowl management.

Our office has recently heard from multiple residents in rural and suburban parts of Montgomery County who are experiencing a noticeable increase in deer populations in their neighborhoods. A growing number of families are reporting quality-of-life and public health concerns, including significant yard damage, sanitation issues from concentrated deer droppings, and increased worries about tick exposure and Lyme disease. These residents are not asking for the elimination of deer from their communities, but for tools that help maintain a sustainable balance between wildlife populations and the people who live alongside them.

SB 643 represents a practical step toward that balance. Expanding Sunday hunting opportunities can help address declining hunter participation and increase the amount of time available to responsibly harvest deer during the hunting season. As the Department of Natural Resources notes in its analysis, Maryland has seen a significant decline in licensed hunters –from roughly 180,000 to 190,000 annually in the 1980s to about 110,000 today –while hunters remain a critical part of managing wildlife populations and reducing conflicts with species such as white-tailed deer. Increasing available hunting time, particularly on weekends when more residents can participate, is a sensible way to strengthen that management capacity.

I respectfully request an amendment to clarify that the expanded Sunday hunting authority applies only to deer and not to migratory waterfowl. Our communities are not experiencing comparable issues with



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migratory waterfowl, which are governed by a different regulatory structure and population dynamics. Limiting the bill's scope in this way would ensure that the policy response remains closely aligned with the underlying management problem the legislation seeks to address.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 643 and for your continued work to support responsible wildlife management across Maryland.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke  
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7