



March 6, 2026

RE: Support for Senate Bill 0643

Chair Feldman and Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of Senate Bill 0643 and expanding Sunday hunting opportunities in Maryland. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. Our organization, along with active members throughout the state, strongly support removing hunting prohibitions on Sunday that would result in increased access and opportunities for sportsmen and women.

We respectfully urge passage of this important bill that will not only allow the Old-Line State to join recent advancements in Sunday hunting within Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut but also ensure that legislature retains oversight authority while the trained technical experts at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources/Wildlife and Heritage Service uses sound, science-based management to regulate Sunday hunting.

Unfortunately, as you fully understand, many hunters today are still prevented from going afield on their own and/or from introducing new or novice hunters to the great outdoors because they are competing against work, organized sports, and other activities on Saturdays, which is currently their only opportunity to hunt outside of the typical work and school week. This stance ignores the fact that hunting is a deep part of Maryland's heritage, and the state's sportsmen and women directly contribute Over \$255 million to the economy while directly supporting roughly 3000 jobs and providing over \$32 million to state and local taxes.

Hunters often cite "lack of time" as one of the number one reasons they stop hunting. Expanding Sunday hunting is key to providing more people, especially youth and beginners, with more opportunities to engage in hunting, which ultimately leads to generating more hunters, and associated revenue for the state, in the years to come. Further, studies have shown that the additional access does not negatively impact user experience, non-consumptive users, or game populations.

Maintaining America's large number of hunters is crucial to maintaining the revenues necessary to sustain abundant wildlife and wildlife habitat – for both game and non-game – conservation programs as well as access related programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin, CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation