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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0181- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0181, Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out

As reported by the Center for a Humane Economy, *The Scientific Debate Is Settled: Dispersed Lead Ammunition Is a Menace to Wildlife and People*¹

Millions of animals and millions of Americans — kids, pregnant women, and the needy — are at risk from an element known to be deadly, irreducible for 2,000 years

In recognizing this problem this bill will take positive action to ameliorate the problem in Maryland. It will require the Department of Natural Resources to require, through a certain phasing-out process, the use of nonlead ammunition for the hunting of all game species on or before July 1, 2029; and requiring the Department to authorize the use of lead ammunition for muzzleloaders, handguns, rifles, and shotguns if nonlead ammunition is not commercially available for the specific weapon.

A letter to the editor of the Baltimore Banner on March 3, 2024 from a hunter makes clear that this problem is known in the hunting community and is recognized as such.² This bill is a response to both the science identifying the problem and the general response of the hunting community that favors the phase out of lead ammunition. This is an environmental protection measure.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0181.

¹ <https://centerforahumaneconomy.org/dispersed-lead-ammunition-is-menace-to-wildlife-people/>

² <https://www.thebanner.com/opinion/community-voices/lead-ammunition-hunting-legislation-poisoning-KCTEGUF5JRGFJA6WYQG7SWCPWI/>