

Good afternoon! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, past President of the West Laurel Civic Assn, with 1800 houses in Montgomery and Prince George's counties and very many residents who enjoy recreating safely outdoors. We wish to register **very strong opposition to SB643**.

Maryland has a large amount of delightful public recreations areas, land largely paid for by all MD residents' taxes, so they SHOULD be for the safe enjoyment of all MD residents. However, because many of the trails and other facilities of these public areas are near enough to neighboring private land that errant bullets and arrows fired there cross over and endanger the hikers, equestrians, birders, joggers, bikers, dog walkers, etc on those public lands. Almost all riders have stories of **being so fired on** in this manner – me, personally, three time; not fun! -- and Delegate Ben Barnes had a similar experience. Testimony from the MD Horse Council in this and many past years documents vast numbers of such accidents and near-accidents – quite contrary to the disingenuous claims of the bill's sponsor. The one safe day when this was not a problem had been Sundays, a safety the gun lobby has for years been working feverishly to take away.

SB643 would give control of Sunday hunting to DNR, whose operating budget is in part based on the number of hunting licenses the state issues. With money speaking loudly, **DNR caters to the 2% of the population who are hunter, at the expense of the others 98%** n who might like to enjoy these public lands without the fear of being shot. Testimony from others focuses on DNR's very disturbing pro-hunting bias, including their **disingenuous claims that the two supposedly stakeholder forums last summer were generally open to non-hunters** (when for instance only two non-hunters were permitted at the first one)

This bill also would permit firing lethal projectiles only 25.1 yards away from a designated equestrian trail – quite disingenuous since bows can shoot over 400 yards and guns over 3 miles! Unconscionably, it offers no safety distance for trails used only by walkers and bikers!

Additionally, this bill would **renege on a prior agreement** with citizens and allow hunting on Sundays after 3 PM in Montgomery County, were many of our West Laurel Civic Assn residents recreate, yet another safety problem with this bill.

West Laurel Civic Assn strongly urges you to please oppose SB643.

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, 17200 Melbourne Dr, Laurel, bsw@jhmi.edu, 301-655-3552