

SB0643 Favorable
Sean Beck

Expansion of Access

Many Maryland hunters work during the week and are unable to hunt until the weekend. Similarly, youth hunters have school throughout the week and are only able to hunt on the weekend. Under current Sunday hunting restrictions that gives them one day per week to potentially hunt. **Restrictions on Sunday hunting reduce hunting access by 50% for hunters in Maryland.**

Expansion of Population Control

Similar to my first point, by allowing Sunday hunting we increase opportunities for the harvest of deer by 50% for working class and youth hunters. The state simply has too many deer and we should be empowering our dwindling number of hunters to harvest the ever increasing population of white tail deer. **Removing restrictions on Sunday hunting will greatly benefit the environment of the state.**

Safety Concerns

Whenever Sunday hunting bills are brought forth, the equestrians show up in force to complain about safety concerns. Each year MD NRP publishes a safety report at the end of the hunting season, and for the last several decades there are **ZERO** recorded instances of injury to the equestrians from hunters. Equestrians are thousands of times more likely to be injured by a fall from their horse than they are by a hunter.

Furthermore, if they were so concerned about safety from hunters then I would not see them so often at Patuxent State Forest during all of the various hunting seasons, including rifle and muzzleloader. For the last six years I have deployed as many as 15 trail cameras throughout the Patuxent State Forest. On numerous occasions I have documented the equestrians or their hounds in the woods during an active hunting season. This is in addition to observations made with my own eyes. **Hunters do not pose a documented risk to those who so frequently oppose these bills.**

For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on this bill.

Additional Information

As proof of the presence of equestrians in the woods during active deer seasons, I provide a small selection of images each stamped with date and time of occurrence.



12/1/2024 was a Wednesday during the deer rifle season.



10/23/2024 was a Wednesday during the deer archery season.



12/6/2023 was a Wednesday during the deer firearm season.