

**ALLEGANY-GARRETT
SPORTSMEN'S ASSN.**



"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country, its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife"

P.O. Box 625 * Midlothian, Maryland 21543

Honorable and distinguished committee members,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to Senate Bill 0181, titled "Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition Phase-out."

While I appreciate the intent to protect Maryland's environment and wildlife, I have serious concerns about advancing this legislation without a comprehensive, Maryland-specific study demonstrating the necessity and anticipated impact of a statewide lead ammunition ban. To date, it does not appear that a study has been completed that evaluates local wildlife populations, hunting practices, or environmental conditions unique to Maryland. Decisions of this magnitude should be grounded in data collected within our own state rather than extrapolated from conditions elsewhere that may not accurately reflect Maryland's realities.

Additionally, there is a significant practical concern regarding the current lack of widely available and affordable non-lead ammunition alternatives. Many hunters already face limited access to ammunition, and non-lead options are often scarce, prohibitively expensive, or unavailable in common calibers used by Maryland hunters. Implementing a phase-out before the market can reliably meet demand risks effectively preventing lawful participation in hunting activities.

Hunting is an important tradition in Maryland and plays a vital role in wildlife management and conservation funding. Policies that restrict access to essential equipment without sufficient alternatives in place may unintentionally undermine these efforts and disproportionately impact rural residents, lower-income hunters, and small businesses.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 0181 or, at a minimum, delay its consideration until a thorough, Maryland-based study is completed and non-lead ammunition alternatives are consistently available and affordable statewide. A measured, data-driven approach would better serve both conservation goals and the citizens who responsibly enjoy Maryland's hunting heritage.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,

Joe L. Schroyer
Legislative Secretary
Allegany-Garrett Sportsmen's Association