



March 4, 2026

**Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman**

House Environment & Transportation Committee

250 Taylor Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 1067 - Hunting - Phase-Out of Lead Ammunition - FAVORABLE**

**Dear Chairman Korman and Vice Chair Guyton:**

Wildlife for All respectfully urges a favorable report on HB1067 to phase out the use of lead ammunition for hunting in Maryland. Protecting wildlife and public health while ensuring responsible hunting practices is a shared goal, and this legislation advances all three.

The evidence is clear: lead ammunition causes measurable harm to wildlife. A 2022 study published in *Science* examined 1,210 bald and golden eagles across 38 states and found nearly half had bone lead concentrations above thresholds for chronic poisoning. Scavenging birds are exposed when they feed on carcasses or gut piles containing bullet fragments—an entirely preventable source of contamination.

Lead also poses risks to people. Fragments are extremely difficult to fully remove from harvested meat, creating potential exposure for hunters and their families. According to the National Institutes of Health, lead exposure is associated with neurological damage and other serious health effects. There is no safe level of lead in the human body.

Phase-outs of lead ammunition are practical and effective. California completed a statewide transition in 2019, with documented benefits to wildlife and no measurable decline in hunting participation. Non-lead alternatives—including copper, steel, and bismuth—are widely available, high-performing, and already used by millions of hunters nationwide. Similarly, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banned lead shot for waterfowl hunting in 1991, lead-poisoning mortality in mallards dropped dramatically, demonstrating that policy changes can produce clear conservation gains.

HB1067 represents a common sense step toward reducing preventable wildlife mortality and protecting Maryland families, while maintaining strong hunting traditions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, 

Michelle L. Lute, PhD | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Wildlife for All