

Good afternoon! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, owner of a lovely 12 Ac backyard farm in Laurel (the northern-most point in Prince George's County).

HB 186 is a very bad bill, in very many ways, on which comments from representatives of the Maryland Horse Council, and likely also other residents, will focus. I will not reiterate – but 100% endorse – the data and arguments that Jane Siegler Christy Claggett and others will present.

I want to specifically focus on how HB186 would remove the restriction against Sunday hunting that Prince George's County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Howard County have managed to maintain over the years, despite a barrage of bills trying to overwhelm them. It seems completely unfair that each year we average citizens have to testify against the well-funded hunting industry – which already has 6 days a week for shooting lethal weapons outdoors and is trying to try to get the 7<sup>th</sup> day that traditionally has been reserved as the only day of the week for the other 98% of the population who are not hunters to enjoy our area's lovely green areas without the fear of being shot at.

Back over 25 years ago when Sunday Hunting was first being seriously lobbied for, then-Governor Parris Glendening expressed precisely those sentiments in a very well-worded and impassioned plea -- to retain that one safe-outside day. And it is even more true today, when the value of outdoor exercise and communing with nature is even more recognized, and lands are more crowded.

I want to note that I am one of the many outdoor enthusiasts who has been shot at while recreating – in fact, shot at on three separate occasions, including a lethal hunting arrow zipping less than 2 feet from my ear! And it is not a fun experience! Evidently none of those “great hunters” recognized that my white riding helmet, orange safety vest, and white horse below me do not look much like a five-point deer. One of my favorite Delegates here in Annapolis had a similar experience of being shot at while recruiting in an area park. And many other cases of residents being accidentally shot at by hunters are on DNR's website, with yet many more not reported. As we all know, arrows don't respect property lines.

Let me also point out that if hunters are so unsuccessful in the 6 days/week they already have for hunting (and endangering non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts), why think the 7<sup>th</sup> day will solve any deer problem?

Maybe the bill sponsors live in areas so rural that the proposed hunting would not endanger neighbors, but much of Prince George's County (including the northern area where I live in Laurel, and nearby Greenbelt, Beltsville, College Park, Bowie, etc) has a high population density with private properties generally rather small and of course abutting other people's private property or public lands. And notably, in the public lands, the trails often run near the periphery, bordering on abutting private land – from which an arrow can fly. Note especially that modern models can shoot up to 80 yards and compound bows can shoot up to 400 yards (at 200 miles per hour) – so further than my property is wide! – and they are silent so give no warning. It seems most dangerous to remove the one day where residents are safe from an arrow flying off the private land on which it is fired, into a public area or abutting private land, endangering those on the neighboring properties. And it is unclear what hunting devices they want to additionally permit by the wording “a hunting device other than a bow and arrow”.

Please, keep Sunday safe for the vast majority of the population, us non-hunters, who want to be able to recreate outdoors without the fear of being shot at on one day per week, when hunters have already claimed the other six days.

Please oppose HB 186.