

Good afternoon! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, past President of the West Laure 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 HB 1063. Maryland has a large amount of delightful public recreations areas, land largely paid for by all MD residents (through our state or indirectly through our US taxes). So these parks SHOULD be for the safe enjoyment of all MD residents.

However, there is a significant safety issue, 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 – which do no respect property boundaries – cross over and endanger the hikers, equestrians, birders, joggers, bikers, dog walkers, etc on those public lands. Almost all riders have stories of being fired on in this manner – me, personally, three times -- and it is not fun to have an arrow or bullet whiz by your ear! My Delegate Ben Barnes had a similar experience of being shot at while recreating in an area park, and testimony from the MD Horse Council in this and many past years documents vast numbers of accidents and near-accidents in this manner. The one safe day when this was not a problem had been Sundays. But the gun lobby has for years been working feverishly to take away that public safety on Sundays, making hunting legal on all seven days of the week.

HB 1063 proposes to put the regulation of Sunday hunting in the hands of DNR. While theoretically wildlife experts, since part of DNR's operating budget derives from Pittman-Robertson money based on the number of hunting licenses the state issues – and because money speaks loudly -- they of course cater to the 2% of the population who are hunters. And this is done at the expense of the others 98% of the population who might like to enjoy these public lands without the fear of being shot at. Testimony presented by others focuses on the very disturbing pro-hunting bias of DNR, including their trying to minimize the input from equestrians and other non-hunters related to this attempt to assume control of the Sunday hunting issue.

HB 1063 additionally proposes to permit the firing of lethal projectiles only 25.1 yards away from a designated equestrian trail when on any property of 10 Ac or more. That measly 25-yard restriction is proposed despite the fact that bows can shoot over 400 yards and guns over 3 miles! And for trails used only by foot and bicycle traffic, HB 1063 does not even propose such a "safety" distance restriction! Unconscionable!

Additionally, HB 1063 proposes to allow hunting on Sundays after 3 PM in Montgomery County, were many of our West Laure Civic Assn residents recreate, yet another problem with this bill for the safety of our residents.

West Laurel Civic Assn strongly urges you to please oppose HB 1063.

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, 17200 Melbourne Dr, Laurel, [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-655-3552