



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:

My name is Adam Leontowich and I'm a Scientist at the Canadian Light Source (CLS), a national research facility of the University of Saskatchewan. I'm a PhD chemist, a hunter, and a gun owner. I've published peer reviewed scientific articles in 2022 and 2025 on the topic of lead ammunition fragments in game meat. In these two studies, we applied a new and powerful technique, synchrotron X-ray imaging, that no one had ever applied to this topic before.

Using synchrotron X-ray imaging techniques at the CLS and at the Advanced Photon Source located near Chicago, Illinois, we directly observed ultra small lead fragments embedded within tissues of game animals struck by traditional lead-based ammunition. Lead fragments down to the size of red blood cells were found in edible tissues of a white-tailed deer struck by a .308 Winchester round at 100 meters, and a sharp-tailed grouse struck by several #6 pellets from a 12-gauge shotgun at 20 meters. The lead fragments we observed in game meat were 1000× smaller than previously shown, literally lead "dust". We also found that the quantities within the micro- and nanoscale fragments exceeded US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention benchmarks for lead exposure from food. These tiny fragments are invisible using standard medical X-ray systems at hospitals. Therefore, scanning hunted game meat with medical X-ray systems is not an effective method to screen for concerning levels of lead. In addition, the tiny lead fragments could possibly be pumped throughout the animal via the circulatory system in its final moments, so trimming may not be 100% effective to avoid lead exposure.

As a scientist, our results agree with dozens and dozens of previous peer reviewed studies on this topic: the most effective method to avoid lead exposure from game meat is to use non-lead ammunition for hunting. As a hunter, in my experience non-lead ammunition was compatible and accurate with my existing hunting rifles and shotguns, and it is commercially available in my area. I find no significant increase in cost for hunting, considering the gear and expenses for even a one-day hunting trip. Most importantly, I find it to be equally effective to do the job of hunting. These personal experiences are again in agreement with dozens of previous peer reviewed studies.

Sincerely,

Adam Leontowich, PhD