



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 1067

Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out

Date: March 4, 2026

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Matt Stegman,
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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 1067**, which will phase out the use of lead-based ammunition by hunters on or before July 1, 2029. The bill provides an exception in certain narrow instances where non-lead ammunition is not commercially available for a specific firearm.

Lead (Pb) is toxic and is banned from gasoline, paints, and various household items in most developed countries. Lead ammunition, however, is still widely used for hunting and shooting, and is now likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead that is knowingly discharged into the environment in the United States.¹

Scientists across North America and Europe have published consensus statements on the risks to wildlife, the environment, and human health from the use of lead ammunition and the need for its replacement by non-toxic alternatives. Lead has the potential to be bioaccumulated through the food chain to higher concentrations. In fact, the Center for Disease Control affirms that there is no safe level of lead for children.²

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1067.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment—A Consensus Statement of Scientists [2013](#); U.S. Geological Survey [2013](#).

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faqs/lead-faqs.htm>