

CONGRESSIONAL  
**SPORTSMEN'S**  
FOUNDATION

**To:**            **The Honorable Marc Korman**  
                    Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
                    250 Taylor House Office Building  
                    Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re:**            **House Bill 186 – Natural Resources – Bow Hunting – Sundays**

**Position:**     **Support**

**Date:**         **February 4, 2026**

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Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

As the Assistant Manager, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), and as a lifelong Maryland resident and avid licensed hunter, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 186 (HB 186) – legislation that will allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fully implement Sunday hunting during archery deer hunting seasons, as well as the turkey seasons.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitals advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Maryland has experienced success with the addition of Sunday hunting for most game species since 2003 when it was first authorized. However, the current framework for Sunday hunting has resulted in a confusing patchwork of various allowances by County. The passage of HB 186 will remove the legislative barrier that prohibits the DNR (the subject matter experts) from fully managing deer and turkey populations throughout the state, through scientifically regulated hunting seasons, and will allow sportsmen and women the opportunity to recreate 7-days a week (versus 6-days a week), like many other outdoor enthusiasts already have the opportunity to do. For example, people may hike, bike, bird, canoe, horse ride, paddleboard, target shoot, and more, 365 days a year without regulatory seasons and restrictions. Hunters are the only group of outdoor users that continue to be discriminated against through the remaining and archaic, legislative Sunday hunting prohibitions.


Access and opportunity are major limiting factors hindering participation in hunting, and restrictions on Sunday hunting provide a temporal access barrier to youth and others that work or attend school throughout the week and are often involved in extracurricular activities on Saturdays. Individuals and families continue to seek the ability to participate in safe and healthy recreation. Hunting not only provides residents with that chance, but it also offers a chance to harvest fresh and healthy meat for consumption and nourishment. Additionally, hunting is the most cost-effective means of wildlife population management. CSF strongly supports measures that increase access and opportunity for

sportsmen and women that are in line with science-based wildlife management.<sup>1</sup>

Sportsmen and women are also the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts and are thus an important constituency that provides benefits for all Marylanders. In 2025 alone, Maryland’s sportsmen and women generated more than \$27.1 million dollars for conservation funding in Maryland through revenue derived from license sales and manufacturer level excise taxes on sporting-related goods in the unique “user pays – public benefits” structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). These funds are critical for the DNR to carry out their mission of conserving and protecting our great states natural resources.

In closing, repealing laws that prohibit hunting on Sundays will likely increase participation, and license sales by extension will have a positive impact on the state’s economy, and will strengthen the Old-Line State’s deep outdoor heritage. In addition, this bill will provide additional opportunities for friends and families to spend time afield, resulting in the strengthening of relationships, creating bonds and memories, as well as passing down traditions to the next generation. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 186.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaleigh E. Leager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kaleigh E. Leager  
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<sup>1</sup> [Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation 2025 Issue Brief – Sunday Hunting Restrictions](#)