

February 17, 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:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1067 and ask for yours. For reasons I describe below, this phase-out of lead ammunition for hunting in Maryland is vital for human, wildlife, and ecological health today and for generations to come. Based on my academic research and first-hand experience with how lead ammunition impacts wildlife (particularly raptors such as Bald and Golden Eagles and owls, as well as human health, particularly the health of pregnant women, babies, and children, I strongly believe this legislation represents a necessary and scientifically grounded step toward protecting ecosystems, hunters, and the broader public.

Lead is a well-documented neurotoxin with no safe level of exposure. Decades of research have shown that even small quantities can cause irreversible harm to both humans and wildlife. Scavenging species—that not only include raptors but also mammals such as foxes—are particularly vulnerable, as they ingest lead fragments left behind in carcasses or gut piles left by hunters when they field dress game. Numerous studies have linked these exposures to population-level impacts, including decreased survival, impaired reproduction, and increased mortality.

The impacts on human health risks are also significant. Lead fragments from ammunition can disperse widely within game meat, as much as 17” from the entry site, and are often too small to detect or remove. Families who rely on wild game as a food source, including many rural and subsistence hunters, face unnecessary exposure risks. Citizens who rely on meat from community food banks, as well as indigenous communities, are particularly vulnerable. Lead bioaccumulates. It might not show up immediately in a full-grown adult, but, given the small size of babies and children, the toxic effects are quicker, devastating, and can have a lifelong impact on the individual and on our health care systems. Transitioning to non-lead ammunition is a straightforward and effective way to reduce these hazards and costs.

Importantly, non-lead alternatives are already widely available, ballistically effective, and increasingly affordable. Many hunters across the country have voluntarily switched after learning about the risks associated with lead. HB 1067 simply ensures that Maryland follows the best available science and aligns with practices already adopted in other states and federal lands.

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This bill is not anti-hunting; it is pro-health, pro-wildlife, and pro-responsible ecological stewardship. Maryland's hunters have a long tradition of conservation leadership, and phasing out lead ammunition is a natural extension of that ethic

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **Favorable** report on HB 1067.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting Maryland's environment and communities.

Sincerely,

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