

**MD\_HB\_1063\_SCI Support .pdf**

Uploaded by: Beebe Frederick

Position: FAV



February 25, 2026

**RE: Support for House Bill 1063**

Chair Korman and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of House Bill 1063 and expanding Sunday hunting opportunities in Maryland. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. Our organization, along with active members throughout the state, strongly support removing hunting prohibitions on Sunday that would result in increased access and opportunities for sportsmen and women.

We respectfully urge passage of this important bill that will not only allow the Old-Line State to join recent advancements in Sunday hunting within Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut but also ensure that legislature retains oversight authority while the trained technical experts at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources/Wildlife and Heritage Service uses sound, science-based management to regulate Sunday hunting.

Unfortunately, as you fully understand, many hunters today are still prevented from going afield on their own and/or from introducing new or novice hunters to the great outdoors because they are competing against work, organized sports, and other activities on Saturdays, which is currently their only opportunity to hunt outside of the typical work and school week. This stance ignores the fact that hunting is a deep part of Maryland's heritage, and the state's sportsmen and women directly contribute Over \$255 million to the economy while directly supporting roughly 3000 jobs and providing over \$32 million to state and local taxes.

Hunters often cite "lack of time" as one of the number one reasons they stop hunting. Expanding Sunday hunting is key to providing more people, especially youth and beginners, with more opportunities to engage in hunting, which ultimately leads to generating more hunters, and associated revenue for the state, in the years to come. Further, studies have shown that the additional access does not negatively impact user experience, non-consumptive users, or game populations.

Maintaining America's large number of hunters is crucial to maintaining the revenues necessary to sustain abundant wildlife and wildlife habitat – for both game and non-game – conservation programs as well as access related programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin, CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation

**HB-1063\_WMSC\_kelkye\_FAV\_2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ben Kelkye

Position: FAV



**Ben Kelkye, President**  
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**ben@kelkye.com**  
**301 401-6263**

February 25, 2026

Honorable Members of the  
Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: HB-1063 Natural Resources – Hunting Management  
SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Delegates:

I represent the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc. The Coalition is comprised of many hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations and thousands of their individual members living in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll Counties. As President of the Coalition, I work together with the leadership of these Western Maryland Sportsmen's organizations for the recognition and benefit of the sportsmen and sportswomen of the five most western counties of Maryland.

On February 27, 2026, the Environment and Transportation committee will be hearing the advantages and disadvantages of **HB-1063 (Natural Resources – Hunting Management)**.

**HB-1063** recognizes the desirability and efficiency of the Department of Natural Resources to study, research and implement effective game management regulations. The Department's expertise in wildlife management and consistent stakeholder engagement make it best suited to regulate and address concerns about our wildlife resources.

**Together with the sportsmen and sportswomen of Western Maryland, I strongly urge you to support and vote favorably on HB-1063.**

Respectfully,

*Ben Kelkye*

President  
Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc.

Ben Kelkye	President, WMSC, President Frederick County Sportsmen's Council
Jerry Zembower	President, Garrett & Allegany Sportsmen's Association
Joe Winter	President, Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Matt Guilfoyle	President, Carroll County Sportsmen's Association

Garrett

Allegany

Washington

Frederick

Carroll

**HB 1063\_MAMIC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bryson Popham

Position: FAV

## Bryson F. Popham, P.A.

Bryson F. Popham, Esq.

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February 25, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1063 - *Natural Resources - Hunting - Management* **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of my client, the Maryland Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (MAMIC), we support House Bill 1063.

MAMIC is comprised of 12 mutual insurance companies that are headquartered in Maryland and neighboring states. Approximately one-half of our members are domiciled in Maryland, and are key contributors and employers in our local communities. Together, MAMIC members offer a wide variety of insurance products and services and provide coverage for thousands of Maryland citizens.

You may find it unusual that a trade association comprised of insurance interests is appearing on a bill that has been introduced to manage one of our State's natural resources. The simple reason is that the natural resource that is the subject of House Bill 1063 – our population of wild deer in the State – has become a serious problem for our citizens. It affects insurance because of the number of deer-vehicle collisions that occur in the State each year. There are more than 30,000. The insurance consequences are obvious, and we have seen legislation in past years to prohibit insurers from including the loss costs of such collisions in making their insurance rates. We have opposed these proposals, although we recognize the problem.

We believe that House Bill 1063 is an appropriate step for the State to better manage its deer population. The costs associated with too many deer are not limited to collisions with motor vehicles. The problem also occurs with the effect of deer populations on our natural environment. As one example of a local government response to the problem, please see the attached Deer Management Program that is about to be launched by the City of Baltimore. It details the significant deer damage to the natural environment in the City, and proposes an appropriate reduction in the number of deer.

House Bill 1063 would also permit a reduction of the deer population through greater access to hunting. MAMIC believes that such a program can provide real benefits to both Maryland citizens when driving their cars, and to the environment in which we all live. For these reasons, MAMIC respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1063.

Thank you for your consideration,



Bryson Popham

cc: Melissa Shelley  
President, MAMIC

**Keep up to date on the latest winter weather information.**  
**[Baltimore City Snow Center](#)** [\[/transportation/snow-center\]](#)

[Department of Recreation and Parks](#) [\[/bcrp\]](#) > [Deer Management Program](#)

# Deer Management Program



## Deer Management Program

### Protecting Baltimore's Forests and Parks

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (Rec & Parks) is launching Baltimore's first Deer Management Program. This is a data-driven effort to protect park forests and reduce problems caused by too many deer.

Rec & Parks cares for more than 2,300 acres of natural areas in city parks. These areas include forests, streams, and wetlands. They help clean our air and water, reduce flooding, support wildlife, and give residents places to relax and explore.

Right now, these natural areas are under stress from climate change, invasive plants, and heavy deer browsing. Protecting young trees is especially important as Baltimore works to grow its tree canopy to 40% by 2037. By taking action now, Baltimore is helping ensure its parks stay healthy and welcoming for future generations.

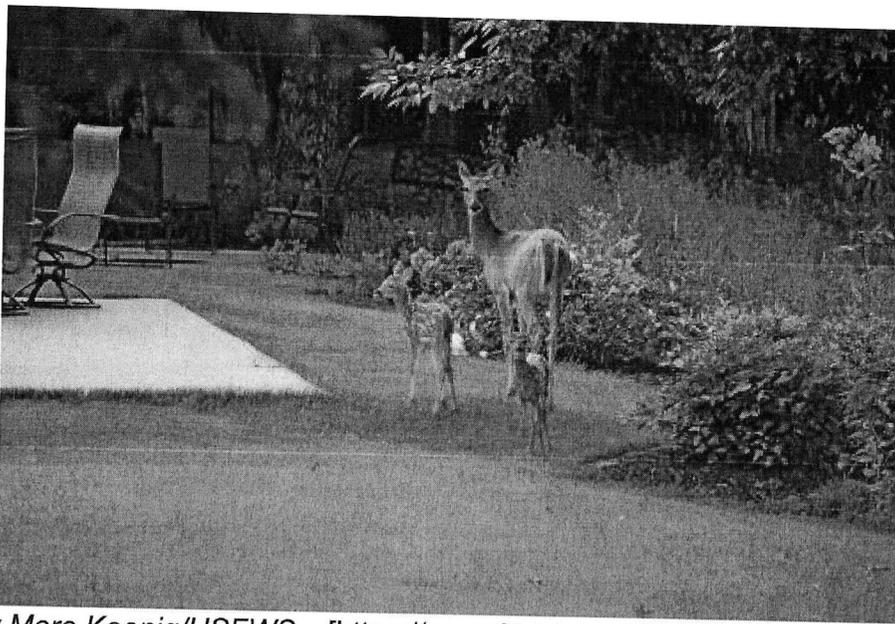
### Why Deer Management Is Needed

Data collected in city parks show that deer numbers in some areas are three to 21 times higher than what a healthy forest can support. Experts recommend no more than 20 deer per square mile in similar habitats.

When deer populations grow too large, they can:

- Eat young trees before they can grow
- Damage native plants
- Help invasive plants spread
- Reduce habitat for birds and other wildlife
- Increase deer-human conflicts
- Raise the risk of tick-borne diseases

Over time, too many deer can prevent forests from growing back. This program is designed to help restore balance so forests can recover.



*Original photo by Mara Koenig/USFWS* [<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest/42099836314/>]



*Original photo by Courtney Celley/USFWS*  
[<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest/53599953580/>]

## **Shaped by Community Input**

The Deer Management Plan was created through a strong community engagement process that began in January 2025 and continued throughout the year.

Outreach efforts included:

- A citywide resident survey (Early Summer 2025)
- Meetings with park “Friends-of” groups and community associations (June 2025)
- Public information sessions near affected parks (July 2025)
- Community focus groups discussing all management options (August 2025)

- Ongoing outreach and education

More than 3,700 residents took part in the survey. Results showed:

- 94% believe forests in city parks add value to Baltimore
- 58% see deer as a threat to forest health
- 62% believe the City should manage deer-related issues
- 59% understand deer management is an ongoing effort

This feedback helped guide the City's decision to move forward with the program.

## **How the Program Will Be Carried Out**

The program will be conducted in partnership with trained wildlife biologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), who have firearms expertise and follow national best practices. When management activities are happening, parks will be temporarily closed to keep residents and staff safe.

## **Online Resources**

### **Informational Videos**

#### **Healthy Forests**

0:00 / 1:49



### **Public Information Sessions**

### **Additional Online Resources**

- White-tailed Deer Biology  
[[https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt\\_trap/wtdeerbiology.aspx](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/wtdeerbiology.aspx)]
- Ornamental Plants Fact Sheet  
[<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/publications/FS655-ResistanceDeer.pdf>]
- Repellents Fact Sheet  
[[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/publications/FS810-A\\_UsingCommDeerReps.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/publications/FS810-A_UsingCommDeerReps.pdf)]
- Deer Populations and Forests [<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/surging-deer-populations-are-crisis-eastern-forests#:~:text=Summer%202024%20Conservation-,Surging%20Deer%20Populations%20Are%20a%20Crisis%20for%20Eastern%20Forests,may%20need%20to%20step%20in.&text=Pledge%20to%20stand%20with%20Audubon,and%20work%20towards%20climate%20solutions>]
- Maryland Technical Guide  
[[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/publications/EB354\\_ManagingDeerDamage.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/publications/EB354_ManagingDeerDamage.pdf)]

## Contact Us

For more information about the Deer Management Program and to share your input, please email [deer.program@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:deer.program@baltimorecity.gov) [<mailto:deer.program@baltimorecity.gov>].

# **Sunday Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Carl Wagner

Position: FAV



**OFFICERS**

Chair  
Carl F. Wagner  
Vice-Chair  
Joe L. Schroyer

**COMMISSIONERS**

Dr. Jacob "Jake" Bowman  
Dr. Emily Beth Cohen  
Dr. Daniel Joseph Herrera  
Kathryn Kullberg  
J. Jeremy Parks  
Kaitlin L. Rossignuolo  
Michael Smith

October 22, 2025

Delegate Marc A. Korman, Esq.  
Chairman Environmental, Transportation Committees  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD. 21401

Delegate Regina T. Boyce  
Vice Chairperson Environmental Transportation Committees  
Lowe House Office Building , Room 251  
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis MD. 21401

Dear Delegate Korman and Delegate Boyce:

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission appointed by Governor Wes Moore, that is charged with advising the Department of Natural Resources on matters of State Wildlife Policies, would like to support the Sunday Hunting-Proposed Solution. Please accept this letter as conformation of the WAC's strong and unanimous support of the DNR's position and proposal to address the Committees request to "reasonable solutions and review of hunting definitions, calendars and policies". After review by our Commission, we believe the proposed solution presented by DNR is both fair and equitable to all parties affected by this change. The WAC was present for all meetings and believe the solutions presented meet all the criteria and needs of all parties' perspectives. We are in full agreement that there has been an ongoing issue with regards to Sunday Hunting and this proposal would bring Maryland in line with its neighbors and solve the long running debate within the state.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any further questions Thank you for your time and attention.

Carl F. Wagner  
Chairman Maryland Wildlife Commission  
113 Ridgely Ave. Annapolis MD. 21401

# **Delta Waterfowl\_Support\_Maryland House Bill 1063.p**

Uploaded by: Cyrus Baird

Position: FAV



February 27, 2026

To: The Honorable Marc Korman and Honorable Michele Guyton

Re: Maryland House Bill 1063 (*An Act Concerning Natural Resources – Hunting – Management*)

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Korman and Vice-Chair Guyton,

On behalf of the members of Delta Waterfowl, both in the great state of Maryland and across North America, I want to thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of House Bill 1063** – legislation that will finally repeal the antiquated prohibition preventing the sportsmen and women from hunting migratory birds on Sundays in the state.

As background, Delta Waterfowl is a leading conservation organization founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba, Canada, with its United States Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. We have members and supporters across North America, including thousands in Maryland, who represent waterfowl hunters in all arenas.

Delta Waterfowl works to produce ducks through intensive management programs and conservation of breeding duck habitat, while also providing vital waterfowl research and promoting and protecting the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting in North America.

### **Review of Sunday Hunting Stakeholder Process**

House Bill 1063 comes as a direct result of months' worth of work in 2025 between members of the legislature – including several on this Committee - the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the hunting and conservation communities, to find a common-sense proposal that addresses the various stakeholders' views. Importantly, it provides the DNR with the authority to effectively manage wildlife and hunting on Sundays just as it does on Monday through Saturday.

Delta Waterfowl has been fortunate enough to be part of similar efforts across the country discussing tough topics in the conservation and outdoor recreation space, but can enthusiastically say we have never seen such energy and commitment to solving a problem from members of a state legislature and state fish and wildlife agency as we saw during this process – and we were thankful to be part of the process.

Delta Waterfowl's position from the beginning of this process has, and continues to be, one of supporting the repeal of the entire section of codified language regarding Sunday hunting in Maryland law and providing DNR with the full regulatory authority to manage hunting on Sundays, mirroring their existing authority on Monday through Saturdays.

We feel these conversations, as illustrated throughout the stakeholder process, warrant a venue and process that allows for more input, discussion and dialogue among the various interested stakeholders. The regulatory process through DNR is perfectly equipped to do just that while still providing the legislature with oversight authority they currently hold.

### **Bifurcated Atlantic Population Canada Goose Hunting**

The bill itself as it relates to the hunting of migratory birds on Sundays is straightforward. Importantly, this proposal would include Sunday hunting opportunities for waterfowl and migratory bird species including ducks, Mourning doves, woodcock, rails, gallinules, snipe, Resident Population (RP) Canada geese, and the Light Goose Conservation Order (LGCO) Season by virtue of DNR's authority and regulatory process.

Of the proposals discussed during the stakeholder process that ended up in this legislation, the section dealing with a bifurcated hunting season in the Atlantic Population (AP) Zone for Canada geese is, in our opinion, the only section that requires additional nuance and context. This proposal would eliminate Maryland's compensatory waterfowl days and create a special season for Sunday hunting for the AP Canada Goose zone for junior hunters, senior hunters, apprentice hunters and full-time students.

This special provision would sunset after three years and DNR would continue to have full regulatory authority in the future. We fully support a shift towards full Sunday hunting for migratory waterfowl species, and this proposal does a great job of addressing concerns of a few of the stakeholders throughout the process while also creating a unique recruitment, retention and reactivation program within DNR designed to help get more Marylanders into the fields and on the waters.

### **Access and Opportunity Equity**

At the core of this Sunday hunting conversation is access and opportunity equity for the residents and outdoor recreationists of Maryland. Sportsmen and women across the country often cite "lack of time" as one of the number one reasons they stop hunting. Many hunters are prevented from introducing new or novice hunters to the great outdoors because they are competing against work, organized sports and other activities on Saturdays, which is currently their only opportunity to hunt outside of the typical work and school week. Allowing an extra day to access the outdoors will provide equity and help recruit and retain a robust hunter population that is needed to provide critical funding for the overall conservation efforts in Maryland.

### **Sunday Hunting has Overwhelming Support**

The concept of Sunday hunting has broad support across the country, including right here in Maryland. Currently more than 40 states offer Sunday hunting for their sportsmen and women across the country. The remaining states where it is still prohibited are primarily concentrated on the east coast – or the Atlantic Flyway – and are deeply rooted in centuries old blue laws and apathy on the part of legislators to change them despite its popularity. More than 75% of waterfowl



hunters across the state surveyed by the DNR indicated they support Sunday hunting, and expanding hunting opportunities to Sundays is the single most requested policy change by hunters during the DNR's regulation setting process and scoping period. This legislation also has broad bipartisan support from several members of the legislature, including the original cosponsor list of Delegates Boyce, Korman, Allen, Bouchat, Hornberger, T. Morgan, Rose, Ruth, and Tomlinson, as well as the Rural Caucus chaired by Delegate Ghrist and Delegate Ziegler.

In recent years, several neighboring states around Maryland have begun the process of deliberating and repealing these prohibitions, and to date, there has been zero negative consequences on the resource and no user-conflict for the states that have enacted this change.

In 2024, Delaware's General Assembly passed House Bill 271 (Rep Carson, et. al.) to allow Sunday hunting for game birds through their House and Senate without a single recorded no vote, and without any public opposition. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Carney in May of 2024 and Delaware sportsmen and women now have the ability to hunt migratory waterfowl on Sundays.

Additionally, in 2025, lawmakers in Pennsylvania sent House Bill 1431 (Rep. Mandy Steel, et. al.) to Governor Shapiro desk where he signed it into law with full support. This legislation gave the Pennsylvania Game Commission and their Commissioners the sole and full authority to approve general Sunday hunting dates. Additionally, Sunday hunting will be allowed on private property with the owner's written permission. In Representative Steele's All House Colleague memo on January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, she noted "[moreover], some states that have recently lifted their Sunday hunting bans have reported no adverse impact on their game populations."

Sunday hunting is also supported by some of the countries' most respected conservation and hunting organizations – including many who were part of this stakeholder process. In addition to Delta Waterfowl, support for Sunday hunting can be found from the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Maryland Bowhunters' Society, Maryland Sportsman's Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Deer Association, Ducks Unlimited, Safari Club International, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Pheasants and Quail Forever and more. These groups represent millions of sportsmen and women across the United States and help lead the way on conservation and hunting issues both in Maryland and abroad.

### **Sunday Hunting Has Little Impact on Waterfowl Populations or Hunter Satisfaction**

The small cohort of Sunday hunting opponents will routinely cite fears of negatively impacting waterfowl populations with the legalization of Sunday hunting. It's important to stress that there is zero scientific or biological data to support that allowing Sunday hunting will negatively impact waterfowl populations. Hunting is widely considered to play a very small role in the overall impact

on waterfowl populations. According to several peer-reviewed studies, nesting success and survival of adult female mallards during the breeding season account for the largest variation in population levels. Survival OUTSIDE of the breeding season – which would include hunting seasons - only accounted for 9% variation in population levels.

In Virginia following the legalization of Sunday hunting for waterfowl, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources estimated that there was “no measurable impact” on waterfowl populations with the additional day of hunting – adding that “[duck] harvest on Sundays was comparable to duck harvest occurring on Mondays-Thursdays and about 1/3 that of Saturdays.”

Allowing Sunday hunting would not alter or change the federal framework structure provided to DNR from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A 60 day duck season would continue to be 60 days.

### **In Closing**

In closing, and as we proceed forward, Delta Waterfowl respectfully urges the Maryland General Assembly to support this legislation as written and eliminate the outdated statutory restrictions on Sunday hunting and provide the DNR with full management and regulatory authority for all Sundays of the migratory waterfowl season. The stakeholder process along with this legislation has demonstrated clear public support, broad bipartisan momentum, and overwhelming evidence that Sunday hunting poses no biological or resource risk. Empowering DNR to regulate Sundays—as they successfully do every other day of the season—ensures science-based decision making, maintains legislative oversight, and delivers greater access, equity, and opportunity to Maryland’s sportsmen and women. We appreciate your continued leadership on this issue and look forward to future conversations.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, comments or concerns at [cbaird@deltawaterfowl.org](mailto:cbaird@deltawaterfowl.org).

Respectfully,



Cyrus Hunter Baird  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation

# **HB 1063 Final Merged Written Testimony Del. Boyce.**

Uploaded by: Delegate Regina T. Boyce

Position: FAV

REGINA T. BOYCE  
Legislative District 43A  
Baltimore City

Environment and  
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Energy

Chair, Natural Resources and  
Open Space



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

**Testimony in Support of HB 1063**

**Natural Resources - Hunting - Management**

Maryland remains among a shrinking number of states with complex statutory Sunday hunting restrictions. These Sunday hunting laws have been a frequent and recurring point of contention in the Maryland General Assembly, and across the state, for a variety of reasons. Currently, the laws are a patchwork of county-specific provisions, time limitations, landscape restrictions, and species-specific rules. These inconsistencies across Maryland create confusion for sportsmen, landowners, enforcement officers, and citizens looking to participate in outdoor recreational activities. Additionally, sportsmen and outdoor recreationalists have expressed disagreement on the practice of Sunday hunting, as sportsmen want the extra weekend day to hunt, recreationalists feel unsafe knowing hunters may be in the area they are hiking, biking, or horseback riding, and traditionalists want to continue adhering to blue laws. Many landowners argue that Sunday hunting restrictions violate personal private property rights, stating that they should be able to hunt whenever they please on their private property. However, Maryland's large deer population causes damages to property in the form of agricultural crop destruction or landscape alteration, which has made it hard to find a compromise.

For context, during the 2025 legislative session, as Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee, a memorandum was written to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, requesting that both departments develop **'reasonable solutions'** to the never-ending Sunday hunting bill requests presented to the Environment and Transportation Committee. In June 2025 and again in July 2025, DNR hosted Sunday Hunting stakeholder meetings where more than 150 attendees heard from lawmakers and key stakeholders who have historically participated in the Sunday hunting dialogue.

**HB1063 addresses the inequity, confusion, and often frustration surrounding Maryland's Sunday hunting laws** and offers compromise for competing interests by authorizing DNR to issue deer damage Sunday hunting permits, adjusting the restricted Sunday hunting hours in certain counties, authorizing migratory game bird hunting on Sundays, and modernizing Sunday hunting regulations. HB1063 authorizes three solutions as a result of stakeholder meetings and months of additional feedback:

**"Hot Spot Sundays" – deer damage abatement tool for MD farmers and landowners**

HB1063 authorizes DNR to issue permits for Sunday deer reduction on contiguous properties of 10 acres or more where documented deer damage has occurred. [N.R. Article 10-415](#) currently allows agriculture operations with deer damage, to obtain permits to kill deer year-round, including all Sundays. This option is

available in every county, including Prince George's, Howard and Baltimore counties, the three listed above with 'absolute' Sunday hunting prohibitions. **The proposal would create 'hot spots' where landscape-level deer damage has been documented by DNR.** Mapping of those areas would be made available to the public, and landowners in those zones who have not been eligible for traditional agricultural damage permits would be eligible to obtain a permit to kill deer on their properties on Sundays in addition to the traditional hunting season days.

Deer damage is clearly defined within the bill language to include widespread destruction of agricultural crops or landscaping, reduction of forest understory or regeneration efforts, and loss of native plant communities. The hunting activities that take place under these permits must comply with the permit guidelines as outlined by DNR, including the prohibition of hunting within 25 yards of equestrian designated trails. This provision allows landowners to relieve their property of deer.

### **“Shared Sundays” – Equal Sharing of Certain Sundays**

HB1063 adjusts the Sunday hunting hours in counties where Sunday hunting is currently restricted to sunrise through 10:30 AM to also include the hours between 3:00 PM and sunset during specified seasons. Recognizing that sunrise and sunset in November-January in Maryland is approximately 7am and 5pm accordingly, Sunday hunting could occur up to 2 1/2 hours after sunrise and then again beginning 2 1/2 hours before sunset. **Hunters would have a total of five daylight hours on those Sundays; non-hunters would also have a total of five hours of daytime opportunity.**

It is important to note that the bill **only applies in counties where time-restricted Sunday hunting already exists** and does not include Sundays in counties where full-day hunting for any season or species already exists. Prohibitions in Prince George's County and Baltimore City would remain the same. Shared Sundays would be prohibited on Sunday in the state park system, preserving those areas for non-consumptive recreational use.

### **“Heroes and Mentors Sundays” - Canada Goose Hunting Proposal**

HB1063 authorizes Sunday hunting for migratory Canada Geese by repealing the current prohibition against Sunday hunting for migratory game birds. The bill specifically ensures access for junior hunters, senior hunters, apprentices, and full-time students with a permit during open Canada Goose seasons, supporting hunter recruitment and hunter retention among seniors and youth. Providing these hunters **additional prime days to hunt with mentors who will provide them safe instruction, individualized attention, and will support their interest in continuing to hunt and become outdoor stewards** is the prime element of Maryland's 'R3' (recruitment, retention and reactivation).

During this process, there have been concerns about the migratory waterfowl population. My office has received questions about bag limits, a potential moratorium with the added Sundays, and the loss of compensatory days. Generally, migratory bird hunting is regulated nationally by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#). The USFWS sets the federal framework for the duration of the season and allows states the ability to set their specific seasons as long as they follow the federal framework. Due to the regulations in Maryland restricting Sunday hunting of migratory birds, the USFWS offers compensatory hunting days to make up for the days lost. Some worry that allowing Sunday hunting will cause Maryland's hunting season to be shorter as it will no longer be eligible for compensatory days. However, **the season length will still consist of the same number of allowable hunting days**

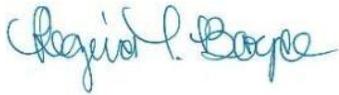
regardless of the presence of compensatory days. Instead of having to make up missed Sundays in the form of compensatory days, hunters would simply be able to hunt on Sundays to achieve their total number of hunting days as nearly every other state. For example, the 2025-2026 duck hunting season consisted of 60 days. All Atlantic Coast States have the same number of days regardless of allowed Sunday hunting. The difference is in how the States schedule the days.

HB1063 goes into effect July 1, 2026 with a sunset of this provision June 30, 2030. A report to the General Assembly must be submitted by December 1, 2029 to determine the effectiveness and management of these policies by DNR as well as the evaluation of the satisfaction of stakeholder interests.

HB1063 is fundamentally an attempt to balance the ecological impacts of deer overpopulation, the needs of landowners, the limited availability of weekend time hunting opportunities, and the importance of preserving public safety and recreational uses of private and public land. HB1063 does not authorize statewide Sunday hunting, nor does it eliminate local distinctions. Instead, it provides DNR with defined authority to regulate Sunday hunting in a structured, transparent, and flexible manner. HB1063 represents a thoughtful first step to modernizing a Sunday hunting framework while balancing competing interests.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge a favorable report on HB 1063.

Sincerely,



Regina T. Boyce

**REGINA T. BOYCE**  
*Legislative District 43A*  
Baltimore City

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Environment and  
Transportation Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Housing and Real Property

*Chair*  
Natural Resources, Agriculture  
and Open Space



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**MEMO**

**TO:** Josh Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources  
**FROM:** Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025  
**RE:** Sunday Hunting

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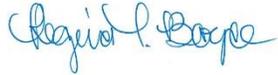
Every year since I joined the Environment & Transportation Committee, 2019, the Committee has listened to countless testimonies for and against Sunday hunting bills. Sunday hunting is a debatable matter which the committee would like the opportunity, in partnership, to resolve for counties that are interested in a policy change.

During the interim, I am requesting that the Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture as appropriate, review hunting definitions, calendar, and polices - per species and county - to determine:

1. schedule gaps;
2. policy inconsistencies;
3. pattern and practice discrepancies;
4. rules regarding hunting on private property policy where applicable;
5. hunting definitions for fox chasers and any appropriate fees;
6. what counties have requested Sunday hunting in the past, the reasons for the request, and what species and hours the requests covered;
7. concerns of the equine community;
8. information about hunting incidents or casualties in the past 30 years, or more, if applicable; and
9. discrepancies between hunting laws/schedule and the crop damage permit.

With the determination of the above, the Committee is expecting the Department to present reasonable solutions, including those that can be implemented through the regulatory process and those requiring legislation during the next session, if necessary.

Sincerely,



Regina T. Boyce

CC: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair, Environment & Transportation  
Secretary Kevin Atticks, Department of Agriculture  
Carroll County Delegation  
Wicomico County Delegation

# **2026 MD HB 1063 - Natural Resources - Hunting - Ma**

Uploaded by: Fred Bird

Position: FAV



**To:**            **The Honorable Marc Korman**  
 Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
 House Office Building  
 Room 251  
 11 Bladen Street  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re:**            **House Bill 1063 – Natural Resources – Hunting – Management**

**Position:**    **Support**

**Date:**         **February 27, 2026**

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

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, collectively representing the interests of Maryland’s 390,627 sportsmen and women, we respectfully urge you to support House Bill 1063 (HB 1063). This legislation will remove the longstanding and antiquated legislative prohibition on Sunday hunting in Maryland and authorize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fully manage wildlife species 7 days a week. Additionally, the passage of HB 1063 will greatly benefit the Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) of sportsmen and women in Maryland.

This legislation will provide equity for access and opportunity for the residents of Maryland seeking to participate in their highly regulated outdoor pursuit (hunting). Allowing an additional day on the weekend will greatly assist in the R3 movement, which is critical to conservation and wildlife management. It is important to note that the passage of this legislation will not authorize hunting in State Parks, Natural

Resource Management Areas or other areas already closed to hunting.

Maryland already has had a successful track record of limited, but ever-expanding Sunday hunting opportunities for some game species since 2003 when it was first authorized. HB 1063 expands upon that, providing the wildlife experts within the DNR the ability to fully regulate hunting season dates and bag limits. Additionally, HB 1063 provides the DNR with the ability to allow for Sunday hunting where biologically and sociologically supported, to provide increased opportunity for Maryland's sportsmen and women.

***Access is a major limiting factor 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 extra-curricular activities on Saturdays.*** The hunting conservation community strongly supports measures that increase access and opportunity for sportsmen and women, and we encourage you to support HB 1063 to afford all families seven-day hunting opportunities for game species. Under the discretion of the DNR, this legislation would significantly improve access for Maryland hunters and would help arrest the decline in hunting participation. The number of paid hunting license holders in the state decreased by 33.9% from 1985 to 2025 and expanding access and opportunity would help stem the decline and provide increased certainty in conservation funding for the Maryland DNR.

***Sportsmen and women are the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts in the state 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 excise taxes on sporting-related goods in the unique "user pays – public benefits" structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding. This funding provides the lion's share of funding for the Maryland DNR and supports the agency's land acquisitions, wildlife and habitat management programs, and many other programs that benefit all citizens of the "Old Line State".

***Allowing Sunday hunting would also significantly benefit Maryland's economy,*** particularly in rural areas, by increasing economic output and job creation. An additional day to hunt would mean more dollars spent by hunters in restaurants, hotels, gas stations and stores throughout the state. Maryland's sportsmen and women are a significant economic force. In 2020, a study was conducted that revealed Marylanders contributed \$328,000,000 in retail sales, supported 4,100 jobs (\$157,000,000 in salaries and wages), paid \$29,000,000 in state and local taxes, and paid \$41,000,000 in federal taxes. In 2022, a study conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service showed that at a national level, 14.4 million people ages 16 years old and older enjoyed hunting within the United States. Collectively, these hunters hunted 241 million days and took 165 million trips and spent \$45.2B. Additionally, increasing opportunities on Sundays will allow private landowners, farmers, and others to diversify their income sources by allowing an additional day of hunting on their land, thereby helping to provide a capital influx into rural economies that were hardest hit by the previous recession. Creating additional opportunities will also encourage out-of-state hunting-related tourism and further bolster rural economies throughout the state.

***The neighboring states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have recently authorized state-wide Sunday hunting and have reported great success, with no increase in conflicts among user groups, safety incidents, or detrimental impacts to their wildlife populations.*** Please find a supportive letter

attached from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, which details their experiences following the authorization of statewide Sunday hunting a decade ago.

In closing, we ask that you consider the successful track record of ever-expanding seven-day hunting in Maryland, the economic and conservation funding benefits to the state, and the importance of increasing opportunities for youth and families to spend time together hunting and thereby protect family traditions and Maryland's hunting heritage.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Delta Waterfowl  
Hunters of Maryland, LLC.  
Maryland Bowhunters Society  
Maryland Sportsmen's Foundation  
National Deer Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Pheasants Forever  
Quail Forever  
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society  
Safari Club International  
Sportsmen's Alliance

Attached: Sunday Hunting Letter - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries



**Molly J. Ward**  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

**Bob Duncan**  
*Executive Director*

April 15, 2016

Bee Frederick  
Southeastern States Manager  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
624 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Mr. Frederick:

As you are aware, in 2014 the Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 154 and House Bill 1237, which permitted Sunday hunting under certain circumstances. With a few exceptions, Sunday hunting is now permitted for waterfowl and is also allowed for other species by private landowners, their families, or anyone with written permission from the landowner. Hunting of deer or bear with dogs while using a weapon is not permitted on Sundays, and certain limitations pertaining to areas near places of worship and other restrictions were also included in the legislation.

You have inquired as to the results of the implementation of the new Sunday hunting allowances in Virginia, as we have now had it in place for nearly two years. I can report to you that hunting on Sundays has gone well statewide. The Department elected to largely leave hunting seasons in place as they existed previously, and simply allow Sunday hunting as directed by the legislation. Bag limits were likewise left in place as they existed before.

Sunday hunting has not had a detrimental impact upon our deer herd. So far, average deer harvests for Sundays more closely approximate the averages for weekdays, and are far less than Saturdays (approximately 50% of the average Saturday during both archery and muzzleloader seasons, and roughly 20% of the average Saturday during general firearms season). While some had feared that the addition of another day of hunting to the week could lead to an unacceptably high deer harvest, that has not been our experience. Turkey harvests on Sundays have also closely approximated weekday averages.

Another concern of some related to Sunday hunting had been whether it might pose an

undue burden upon our law enforcement officers. Again, to date, those fears have not been realized. Similar to harvest statistics, the number of hunting-related calls to our law enforcement dispatch on Sunday's number similarly to the average weekday, increasing only a modest

7870 Villa Park Drive, Ste 400, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228-0778  
(804) 367-1000 (V/TDD) *Equal Opportunity Employment, Programs and Facilities*

Bee Frederick  
Southeastern States Manager  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
April 15, 2016  
Page2

amount over the number of calls that were received on Sundays before hunting was allowed. Hunting-related arrests trend similarly.

In sum, I can say that Virginia's experience so far with Sunday hunting is that of additional opportunities for sportsmen and women in the field without unacceptable impacts upon our wildlife resources, notable increases in citizen complaints, or other serious law enforcement concerns. We look forward to the coming seasons and to our hunters continuing to have this additional day available to them.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Duncan  
Executive Director

RWD/RJB

CC:

The Honorable Marc Korman (Chair)  
The Honorable Michele Guyton (Vice Chair)  
The Honorable Nick Allen  
The Honorable Kevin Anderson  
The Honorable Terry Baker  
The Honorable Dylan Behler  
The Honorable Regina T. Boyce  
The Honorable Linda Foley  
The Honorable David Fraser-Hidalgo  
The Honorable Robin Grammer  
The Honorable Anne Healey  
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.  
The Honorable Jay Jacobs  
The Honorable Robbyn Lewis  
The Honorable Jeffie E. Long, Jr.  
The Honorable Todd B. Morgan  
The Honorable Ryan Nawrocki  
The Honorable Darrell Odom  
The Honorable Dana Stein  
The Honorable Natalie Ziegler

**HB1063 MDA LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Harrison Palmer

Position: FAV



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin Atticks, Secretary

Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading  
Industry

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

[mda.maryland.gov](http://mda.maryland.gov)

410.841.5885 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5846 Fax

## Maryland Department of Agriculture Legislative Comment

Date: February 17th, 2026

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1063  
**BILL TITLE:** Natural Resources - Hunting - Management  
**MDA POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) respectfully submits this letter in support of *House Bill 1063 - Natural Resources - Hunting - Management*.

From an agricultural perspective, deer overpopulation continues to present real and ongoing challenges for Maryland farmers and landowners, particularly through crop damage. Deer damage remains one of the most frequently cited wildlife-related impacts to agricultural production. Farmers and landowners across the state consistently emphasize the need for practical, effective tools to manage deer pressure on and near agricultural lands.

MDA has been actively engaged in discussions regarding deer management and Sunday hunting policies. At the request of the House Environment and Transportation Committee during the interim, MDA participated in collaborative efforts to review hunting definitions, calendars, and implementation considerations alongside the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Through this process, agricultural stakeholders underscored that no single tool is sufficient on its own, and that a combination of approaches is often necessary to meaningfully reduce crop losses.

HB 1063 strengthens and clarifies management tools available where deer damage has been documented. Providing DNR with additional authority to address deer populations on qualifying properties, including the ability to authorize Sunday hunting under defined circumstances, aligns with feedback MDA has received directly from producers experiencing persistent losses. HB 1063 complements the joint Deer Management Initiative between MDA and DNR by reinforcing the statutory framework supporting targeted, responsive deer management.

MDA supports HB 1063 as a practical and collaborative step toward strengthening deer management options for Maryland farmers and landowners while maintaining appropriate safeguards and coordination with DNR, and respectfully requests a favorable report.

**Contact:** Harrison Palmer, Chief of Staff  
[harrisonb.palmer@maryland.gov](mailto:harrisonb.palmer@maryland.gov) | (410) 980-9887

**sunday hunting testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Helen Bailey

Position: FAV

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Helen Bailey and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. I am here to voice my support for House Bill 1063 in regards to Sunday hunting and natural resources management.

The last time I testified on this issue, I was a freshman in high school. Now, I am happy to share that I will be graduating with a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental and Natural Resources from Clemson University and pursuing my Masters degree in Environmental Policy at the University of Cambridge in England starting in October.

My message remains the same as it was in 2019, that the citizens of Maryland should be afforded the same access and opportunities that they have during the other 6 days of the week when it comes to hunting.

Simply put, Sunday hunting restrictions are a result of Blue laws. The intention of Blue laws dates back to the 1700s in order to push Christian church attendance and protect the outlined rest day of society. Operating a business, shopping, playing sports, fishing, and many other activities were prohibited on Sunday. All of these are now allowed on Sunday in Maryland, except hunting.

The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation is known as the most successful system of policies and laws for wildlife. There are 7 pillars to this model and the State of Maryland is currently not following 2 very important pillars by prohibiting Sunday hunting. Number 1 is hunting opportunities for all. Restricting hunting to 6 days a week creates a barrier to children, working class citizens, and students. Hunters were the first conservationists and generate millions of dollars every year through PR to fund conservation initiatives. Expanding access to all Marylanders through Sunday hunting would assist in generating funds for the state of Maryland.

The second pillar is wildlife management being based in science. DNR has teams of biologists that monitor populations, migration patterns, number of hunters, etc. and they set seasons and bag limits annually. They should hold the responsibility of managing Sunday hunting as they manage the other 6 days of the week. Maryland is one of the last remaining states to have migratory bird Sunday hunting restrictions. All of our border states that are also in the Atlantic flyway for migratory birds have Sunday hunting. These birds are following the same migration patterns and the fear of overharvesting has not been evident in surrounding states. Hunting and managing wildlife ethically does not lead to overharvests.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1063.

Thank you,  
Helen Bailey

**HB-1063\_WCFSC\_winter\_FAV\_2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph Winter

Position: FAV



Washington County Federation  
of  
Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

Joe Winter, President  
19226 Dogstreet Road  
Keedysville, Maryland 21756

Jwinter-wcfsc@live.com  
(301) 712-8213

February 25, 2026

Honorable Members of the  
Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: HB-1063 Natural Resources – Hunting Management  
SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Delegates:

I am President of the Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., which includes multiple hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations. I collaborate with their leaders to support and represent sportsmen and sportswomen across Washington County.

On February 27, 2026, the Environment and Transportation committee will be hearing the advantages and disadvantages of **HB-1063 (Natural Resources – Hunting Management)**.

**HB-1063** recognizes the importance and effectiveness of enabling the Department of Natural Resources to study, research, and implement sound game management regulations. Given the Department's specialized expertise in wildlife management and its ongoing engagement with stakeholders, it is best positioned to regulate and address issues related to wildlife resources.

**Together with the sportsmen and sportswomen of Washington County, I strongly urge you to support and vote favorably on HB-1063.**

Respectfully,

*Joe Winter*

President  
Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

"Sportsmen & Conservationists, working together..."

# **2026 MD HB 1063 - Sunday Hunting Prohibition Repea**

Uploaded by: Kaleigh Leager

Position: FAV

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 1063 – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**

**Position:**     **Support**

**Date:**         **2/27/2026**

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

As the 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 1063 (HB 1063) – legislation that will allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fully implement Sunday hunting for all game species in Maryland.

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. The passage of HB 1063 will remove the legislative barrier that prohibits the DNR (the subject matter experts) from fully managing all game species 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. It is important to note that this legislation will not undo the current restrictions on hunting in State Parks, Natural Resource Management Areas, or other areas already closed to hunting.

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 state’s 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 traditions down to the next generation. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1063.

Sincerely,



Kaleigh E. Leager  
Manager, Mid-Atlantic States | Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation  
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003  
[kleager@congressionalsportsmen.org](mailto:kleager@congressionalsportsmen.org) | 202-543-6850 X 20

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

# **HB 1063 Natural Resources – Hunting – Management.p**

Uploaded by: Larry Porter

Position: FAV



**House Bill 1063**

*Natural Resources – Hunting – Management*

Position: FAV

Date: February 27, 2026

To: Environment and  
Transportation Committee

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we write to express our full support for House Bill 1063—Natural Resources—Hunting—Management.

As you are aware, Caroline County has a deep hunting heritage. The passage of this legislation will increase hunting opportunities across the state, in addition to Caroline County. Additionally, this legislation will increase the opportunity for hunters to manage the deer population which is vital for Caroline County's farmers. Deer depredation is a major concern to our constituency, and the passage of this legislation provides another tool in the toolbox for landowners, farmers, and hunters to responsibly manage the deer herds in our county.

The passage of this legislation will also greatly benefit our families that rely on hunting to provide food and safe recreation, as well as the ecotourism that it brings to our county, in addition to our fellow counties on the Eastern Shore.

In closing, the passage of House Bill 1063 also allows counties the opportunity to opt-out of Sunday hunting if they choose, by going through the regulatory process of the Department of Natural Resources, rather than through the legislature.

For the reasons mentioned above, the Caroline County Commissioners are in full support of House Bill 1063.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President

**HB1063\_DNR\_SUP\_ENT\_2-27-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lydia McPherson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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February 27, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1063 – FIRST READER**

**SHORT TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES – HUNTING – MANAGEMENT**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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The Department of Natural Resources is supportive of HB 1063 and its balanced approach to addressing Sunday hunting. The bill is the result of months long stakeholder engagement effort.

It is well documented that deer overpopulation is a concern in certain areas of Maryland. These problems are most evident in and around urban and suburban areas. Current law limits DNR authority for management alternatives to the issuance of agricultural Deer Management Permits (“crop damage permits”) and Deer Cooperator Permits (“sharpshooting permits”). HB 1063 would allow DNR to offer a new deer damage abatement alternative. The new program authorizes permits for properties of 10 acres or more, without requiring a commercial agricultural component. This will be an important addition to the existing deer management options, especially in the suburban open space interface where deer densities are highest.

Additionally, the bill creates more recreational Sunday hunting opportunities, which offer dual benefits. First, it aids in managing the state's deer population by increasing the available time for hunters to harvest deer during the hunting seasons. Second, it serves as a critical hunter recruitment tool, by effectively doubling the weekend hunting time and helping to keep hunters engaged and active in the field.

A strong hunter population is needed to manage conflicts with species like white-tailed deer, sika deer, and resident geese. Hunting license sales and matching federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration grants provide funding to manage all wildlife, including plants and animals. In the 1980s, DNR was selling approximately 180,000 to 190,000 hunting licenses per year. Today, the agency sells about 110,000 hunting licenses. In response to surveys, hunters have said lack of access to land, the lack of time to go hunting, and the lack of mentors for new hunters have caused this decline in licensed hunters. Adding more time to hunt on Sundays is seen as a way to provide more time for hunting and additional time for mentors to train new hunters.

While this bill expands hunting opportunities, it also considers local discretion and enhances safety protocols, such as establishing setbacks for hunting near certain trails. The department will continue to respect the requests of local leaders and work with counties, as is standard practice with all hunting regulations, as we consider the issue of hunting on Sundays.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
[lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov](mailto:lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov) ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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**History:** Sunday hunting prohibitions date to Colonial era “blue laws” of the 1700s. Over time, most states have removed these restrictions and allow hunting on Sunday. Approximately 40 states currently allow unrestricted Sunday hunting. Neighboring states, including Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and most recently Pennsylvania, have all adopted Sunday hunting opportunities in recent years. Presently, 20 of 23 counties in Maryland allow some Sunday hunting for certain game species.

**Safety:** Hunting accidents and conflicts with non-hunters in the state are extremely rare. During the 2023-2024 hunting season, Maryland hunters spent an estimated 750,000 days afield, and DNR recorded 20 hunting accidents, with 15 being self-inflicted, and no fatalities. Most were falls from tree stands. One of the accidents occurred on a Sunday that season. This low accident rate has been stable for years, thanks to our hunter safety education program and responsible hunters.

**Atlantic Population Canada Geese Seasons:** 43 states currently allow Sunday hunting for migratory game birds. Offering migratory game bird hunting on Sundays in Maryland would not shorten the season, but would instead change the days these species are open to hunting. The included calendar chart shows an example of possible Atlantic Population Canada Geese seasons structured with Sunday hunting. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the governing authority over all migratory game bird hunting in the United States, has expressed no concerns about hunting these species on Sunday.

## **BILL EXPLANATION**

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HB 1063 would create four new provisions for hunting and wildlife management in Maryland. First, it would authorize the Department (DNR) to create a new deer damage abatement program where deer damage remains a problem for landowners and farmers who own or manage ten (10) acres of more of land; it would also authorize safe sharing of Sunday hunting hours during deer firearm season in certain counties; it would create a hunting program to recruit, retain and re-engage hunters during a particular migratory game bird hunting season; and on a future date-certain would give DNR the authority to set Sunday hunting days as currently occurs for all other days of the weeks in the DNR authority.

**Atlantic Population Canada Geese**  
**Draft 45 Day Season Structure**

November 2026							November 2026 (Sunday Hunting)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						29	30					

December 2026							December 2026 (Sunday Hunting)						
Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027							January 2027 (Sunday Hunting)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat
					1	2						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31							31						

# **Sunday Hunting Letter of Support - Maryland Waterf**

Uploaded by: Marc Spagnola

Position: FAV



**To:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Waterfowl Guide Service

**Regarding:** Maryland House Bill 1063

**Date:** 2/27/2026

Good afternoon, Environment and Transportation Committee.

My name is Marc Spagnola, and I am the Owner/Oporator of Maryland Waterfowl Guide Service, located in Ocean City, MD. I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 1063.

As a waterfowl guide on Maryland's Eastern Shore, I support this bill. I host clientele from around the country, many of which are making accommodations solely to come hunting here in Maryland. Having Sundays as an option to waterfowl hunt means more opportunities for my clients who want to book a hunt on the weekend, as most people work and can typically only hunt on the weekend unless they take time off from work.

Hunting is a very safe and very regulated outdoor recreation managed by the Department of Natural Resources. In addition to state level management, migratory game bird populations and seasons are regulated by the federal government's framework. By passing this bill, you will be bringing Maryland into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, just like our neighboring states have done within the past several years.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Capt. Marc Spagnola

**MBS HB 1063 (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Maribeth Kulynycz

Position: FAV



To: The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Re: House Bill 1063 – Natural Resources – Hunting  
–Management  
Position: Support  
Date: February 27, 2026

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

My name is Maribeth Kulyncz, I am the President of the Maryland Bowhunters' Society (MBS). MBS stands in support of House Bill 1063. Founded in 1977, the Maryland Bowhunters' Society (MBS) has been dedicated to preserving the history of archery and bowhunting while ensuring its future in Maryland. MBS promotes safe, ethical hunting practices and provides education and training for those who wish to responsibly enjoy the outdoors.

We have confidence that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will continue to make sound, science-based decisions that balance the interests of all stakeholders. For many years, MBS has actively supported the inclusion of Sundays as part of Maryland's hunting seasons. It is estimated that around 10% of the annual harvest is taken on Sundays. MBS supports all hard working residents having the chance to enjoy the outdoors and partake in activities that benefit them, and their families, not only physically but also mentally. In today's fast paced world, people need opportunities to disconnect and enjoy the quiet of Maryland's natural resources on what may be their only free day of the week.

Maryland's outdoors community is proving they are committed to safety. Archery specifically is widely recognized as one of the safest forms of hunting, a fact supported by both national and local statistics. In Maryland over the last 10 years, there has been one archery related two-party incident report.

The outdoors community continues to demonstrate their value to the state by improving roadway safety through effective wildlife population management, providing organic and nutritious food for hunters and many Maryland families in need, assisting farmers with crop damage mitigation, and contributing millions of dollars to Maryland's economy. The efforts also help ensure the long-term health of

our lands and wildlife resources. For these reasons, the Maryland Bowhunters' Society strongly supports HB 1063 and respectfully urges the Committee to give the bill a favorable report.

Thank you for your time,

Maribeth Kulynycz

Maryland Bowhunters Society President

## **Maryland Bowhunters Society**

P.O. Box 21  
Willards, MD 21874

*[www.marylandbowhunterssociety.org](http://www.marylandbowhunterssociety.org)*

**HB1063-ET-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government  
Relations 88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB1063**

February 27, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** HB 1063 - Natural Resources –Hunting - Management

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1063.

HB 1063 updates Maryland law relating to wildlife management by expanding the authority of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address deer population impacts and by modernizing Sunday hunting regulations across the State. The legislation authorizes DNR to reduce deer populations on single, contiguous properties of at least 10 acres where documented deer damage exists. Deer damage is defined to include widespread ecological impacts such as the elimination of forest understory, tree regeneration, and native plants, as well as destruction of agricultural crops and ornamental landscaping. The bill permits DNR, at its discretion, to determine appropriate methods of population reduction and to issue permits to property owners or their employees, lessees, or agents, to shoot deer on Sundays as part of an authorized management effort. During deer firearms season, permits must prohibit Sunday deer hunting within 25 yards of a DNR designated equestrian trail. The bill also repeals certain county-by-county Sunday hunting restrictions, authorizes DNR to adopt regulations allowing Sunday hunting during game bird and game mammal seasons, and repeals the prohibition on Sunday hunting of migratory game birds, subject to applicable federal and state requirements. Additionally, DNR is required to map eligible areas for deer damage permits and make those maps publicly available.

Within Baltimore City, hunting is not permitted on public lands under any circumstances. This

includes all parks and properties managed by Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP). However, hunting is legal within Baltimore City if individuals maintain the 450-foot safety zone as regulated by the State, hunt only on property they own or have permission to hunt on, and possess a valid Maryland state deer hunting license.

Many state wildlife agencies have been removing Sunday hunting bans that were initially established to enforce Sabbath observance and incentivize church attendance. Allowing Sunday hunting will provide hunters with additional opportunities to harvest their desired game animal, particularly for individuals whose work or family schedules prevent them from hunting during the week.

For these reasons, the BCA **supports** HB 1063 while reaffirming that hunting remains strictly prohibited on public lands within Baltimore City and subject to all applicable state and local safety and licensing requirements.

**HB1063\_James A. Kimble.pdf**

Uploaded by: James Kimble

Position: FWA

James A. Kimble  
30302 Rabbit Hill Road  
Easton Maryland 21601  
[albiekimble@gmail.com](mailto:albiekimble@gmail.com)  
410-490-2124

February 24, 2026

Chairman Marc Korman  
& The Environment and Transportation Committee

I write to you regarding proposed legislation that would remove Maryland's longstanding prohibition on Sunday migratory bird hunting and require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow certain groups to hunt Canada geese on Sundays. I respectfully urge you to consider the broader conservation, biological, and economic implications of this proposal before advancing the bill.

Maryland is unique within the Atlantic Flyway. Our state hosts a disproportionately large share of wintering Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese and other migratory waterfowl, while also serving as the most heavily hunted wintering area in the Flyway. Maryland ranks fourth nationally in Canada goose harvest, with a ten-year average of 24,440 goose hunters harvesting approximately seven geese per five days afield. Comparisons to surrounding states that allow Sunday waterfowl hunting are not equivalent. Virginia (ranked 20th), Pennsylvania (10th), and Delaware (32nd) experience significantly lower harvest totals and hunting pressure. Maryland's biological and management circumstances are fundamentally different.

The Atlantic Population Canada goose breeding pair numbers have fluctuated significantly in recent years, declining from 167,629 breeding pairs in 2016 to 88,890 in 2024. The long-term maintenance objective is 60,000 breeding pairs. During the period between 2016 and the 2025–2026 hunting season, seasons that expanded to 45 days with a two-bird daily bag were followed by population declines and a return to a more restrictive framework of 30 days and one bird per day. These geese already face pressures from habitat change, weather variability on northern breeding grounds, and other environmental stressors. Additional hunting pressure should not be layered onto a population that has demonstrated volatility.

Maryland's history underscores the risks of overharvest. In the 1990s, sustained high hunting pressure, combined with poor nesting and hatch conditions, led to a complete moratorium on Canada goose hunting from 1995 through 2001. Given recent fluctuations in breeding pair numbers, another restrictive cycle—or even a moratorium—is not beyond possibility. A moratorium would require a minimum three-year closure and would significantly harm Maryland's hunting economy, as well as risk losing a generation of waterfowl hunters.

Proponents suggest that adding Sundays would increase participation and opportunity. However, available data does not support this conclusion. Virginia permitted Sunday hunting beginning in 2014 and experienced a 13 percent decline in hunting license sales from 2014 to 2024 (Virginia DCR). During that same period, Maryland—without Sunday waterfowl hunting—experienced

only an 8 percent decline. Hunter participation appears more closely tied to hunt quality and reliability than to the number of available days. Increased disturbance, particularly the removal of a consistent weekly rest day, may degrade hunt quality by altering feeding and flight behavior of migratory waterfowl. Sundays currently provide a predictable day of reduced disturbance, benefiting both birds and overall hunting conditions.

It is also important to note that the bill, as drafted, removes the general prohibition on Sunday migratory bird hunting altogether. While it directs DNR to allow youth, seniors, and students to hunt Canada geese on Sundays, removing the prohibition would authorize DNR to permit Sunday migratory bird hunting for any hunter and across all species. Paradoxically, if Sunday access is limited only to certain groups for Canada geese, other hunters could lose between four and eight hunting days depending on the season length. Furthermore, the bill applies only to private lands. Hunters who rely exclusively on public lands would automatically lose between four and eight hunting days per goose or duck season. Rather than increasing opportunity, this framework risks redistributing and in some cases reducing opportunity.

It is understandable to expand opportunity for species that are demonstrably overpopulated and causing measurable agricultural damage, such as deer. However, there is no comparable waterfowl overpopulation issue requiring correction. Conservation of the migratory resource—shared across state and international boundaries—must take precedence over incremental increases in hunting access.

Maryland cannot afford to “try it and see.” One year of increased harvest coinciding with poor breeding-ground weather conditions could quickly push the entire Flyway into a restrictive regulatory package. The biological consequences would extend far beyond one season and could take years to correct.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you maintain Maryland’s longstanding prohibition on Sunday migratory bird hunting and prioritize conservation stability for Atlantic Population Canada geese and other migratory waterfowl.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to responsible wildlife management.

Sincerely,  
Albie Kimble  
Concerned Citizen

**HB1063\_FWA\_MWHA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jared Thompson

Position: FWA

# Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Association

February 27, 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee

## **House Bill 1063 – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting – Migratory Game Birds**

Position: Support with Amendment to Remove Authorization for Sunday Hunting of Migratory Game Birds

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1063. I respectfully offer support with an amendment to remove the provision authorizing Sunday hunting of migratory game birds, including Canada geese and ducks. This amendment prioritizes migratory game bird conservation, putting the resource first, rather than favoring hunter preference for additional opportunity with potentially detrimental impacts on the regulated species.

As drafted, HB 1063 **removes the prohibition on Sunday migratory bird hunting entirely**. It requires the Department of Natural Resources to allow youth, seniors, and students to hunt Canada geese on Sundays. However, once the statutory prohibition is removed, the Department has the **authority to allow Sunday hunting for any hunter and for all migratory game bird species**. This would be allowed through a regulatory process which takes the authority partially away from the representative legislature.

Maryland is unique within the Atlantic Flyway and the country. The Eastern Shore of Maryland is known as the “Canada Goose Capital of the World” and hosts a disproportionately large share of wintering Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese and other migratory waterfowl. Maryland is also one of the most heavily hunted states for Canada geese in the country. **Maryland ranks 4th in the nation for Canada goose harvest**, with a ten-year average of approximately 24,440 goose hunters per year harvesting about seven geese per five days afield. This further demonstrates the high harvest levels as many of these years had a one bird per day limit. Comparisons to surrounding states that allow Sunday waterfowl hunting are not appropriate. Virginia ranks 20th, Pennsylvania 10th, and Delaware 32nd in harvest, all with substantially lower hunting pressure. The ecological and harvest realities in Maryland are fundamentally different and warrant a more precautionary approach.

The AP Canada goose population has experienced significant volatility in recent years. Breeding pair estimates have declined from 167,629 in 2016 to 88,890 in 2024, while the Flyway maintenance goal is 60,000 breeding pairs. Over this same period, seasons with more liberal frameworks (45 days and a two-bird daily limit) have often been followed by reduced breeding pair counts and subsequent returns to more restrictive packages (one bird for 30 days). These fluctuations demonstrate that the population remains sensitive to harvest pressure and

# Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Association

environmental conditions. The population already faces numerous pressures, habitat variability, weather conditions on the breeding grounds, and changing migration patterns, without the addition of increased hunting pressure on Sundays.

Maryland's history underscores this risk. Sustained high hunting pressure in the 1990s, combined with poor hatching conditions, resulted in a moratorium on Canada goose hunting from 1995 through 2001. Given the recent volatility in breeding pair numbers, another moratorium is not outside the realm of possibility. The consequences of such a closure would be severe for hunters, local economies, and conservation funding tied to license revenue and equipment purchases.

Evidence from other states suggests that adding Sunday hunting does not meaningfully increase hunter participation. Hunting quality and reliability are more important drivers of participation than simply adding more days. After Virginia authorized Sunday hunting in 2014, the state experienced approximately a 13% decline in hunting license sales from 2014 to 2024, according to state licensing data from the Virginia Department of Resource Conservation. Over the same period, Maryland, without Sunday waterfowl hunting, experienced a smaller decline of roughly 8%. This indicates that adding Sunday opportunities does not necessarily translate into sustained recruitment or retention of hunters.

Sundays currently provide a predictable day of rest for migratory waterfowl, allowing birds to feed and move with less disturbance. Removing that respite would likely alter flight patterns and feeding behavior, increase disturbance, and ultimately reduce overall hunt quality. Lower quality hunting experiences can diminish long-term participation more than the inability to hunt seven days a week.

Importantly, the bill does not actually increase opportunity for many hunters. If Sundays are reserved for youth, seniors, and students, all other hunters would lose between four and ten potential hunting days, depending on season length, because the federal migratory framework limits total days afield. In addition, the bill applies only to private land, meaning hunters who rely on public land access would automatically lose between four and ten hunting days per goose or duck season with no offsetting opportunity.

Expanding hunting opportunities can be appropriate for overabundant species such as deer that cause significant agricultural and property damage. Waterfowl management presents a very different context. There is no overpopulation problem for migratory geese and ducks in Maryland that warrants additional harvest pressure. The argument that adding a weekend day for hunting would not increase harvest is disingenuous. Saturdays are currently the most hunted day of the week so logic tells us the harvest would increase by approximately the same number as harvested on Saturday. Those that cannot hunt on a Saturday would then hunt Sunday. Increased harvest is the only logical conclusion.

Conservation of the resource and long-term population stability should take precedence meaningfully over short-term preferences for additional hunting days.

# Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Association

Finally, this is not an issue Maryland can afford to “try and see.” One year of elevated harvest combined with poor weather conditions on the northern breeding grounds could push the entire Atlantic Flyway into a restrictive regulatory package. A renewed moratorium, required to last multiple years if implemented, would severely damage the State’s hunting economy and risk losing an entire generation of waterfowl hunters.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that House Bill 1063 be amended to remove the authorization for Sunday hunting of migratory game birds while allowing the remainder of the bill to proceed if the Committee deems appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to science-based wildlife management and the long-term sustainability of Maryland’s migratory waterfowl resources.

Jared W. Thompson

President, Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Association

**26 MGPA\_HB1063\_SundayHunting.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lindsay Thompson

Position: FWA



Maryland Grain Producers Association  
118 Dundee Ave, Chester, MD 21619  
Lindsay.mdag@gmail.com (p) 443-262-8491  
www.marylandgrain.com

Date: February 25, 2026

## **House Bill 1063 – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**

Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee

MGPA Position: Support with Amendments

On behalf of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), representing Maryland farmers who grow corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and other grains across the State, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1063 with amendments. Specifically, MGPA requests removal of the provisions authorizing Sunday hunting of migratory game birds.

Maryland's grain farmers work to balance agricultural productivity with responsible wildlife conservation. Our members experience firsthand the impacts of wildlife populations on crop production, and we strongly support policies grounded in sound science that both protect natural resources and address real on-farm challenges.

MGPA supports the bill's provisions that increase opportunities to harvest deer. Deer overpopulation continues to cause significant and measurable damage to grain crops across Maryland, including corn, soybeans, and small grains. Crop depredation from deer results in yield losses, replanting costs, and increased management burdens for farmers, particularly in rural and suburban interface areas. Expanding hunting opportunities for deer is a targeted and appropriate wildlife management strategy that addresses an overabundant species while providing meaningful relief to agricultural producers.

### **Requested Amendment: Remove Authorization for Sunday Migratory Bird Hunting**

While MGPA supports increased deer harvest opportunities, we respectfully request an amendment to remove the authorization for Sunday hunting of migratory game birds, including waterfowl.

Many Maryland grain farmers lease their land for hunting and derive significant income from leases for waterfowl hunting, specifically, Canada Geese. The State hosts a disproportionately large share of wintering Atlantic Population Canada geese and other migratory waterfowl and is one of the most heavily hunted wintering areas in the Flyway. High existing hunting pressure, combined with Maryland's geographic importance to wintering birds, requires a cautious, science-based management approach that prioritizes long-term population stability.

MGPA has serious concerns with authorizing additional, high pressure, hunting days given the breeding pair population was as low as 88,000 in 2024. For context, the target before more restrictions and possibly no hunting sets in is 60,000 pairs. History demonstrates the risks of excessive harvest pressure during periods of population volatility. In the 1990s, sustained 3 bird limits for 90 days coupled with poor weather conditions contributed to a moratorium on Canada goose hunting in Maryland from 1995 to 2001. The loss of lease income for farmers during these already difficult would be extremely detrimental.

From an agricultural perspective, there is no comparable overpopulation problem with migratory waterfowl that justifies additional hunting pressure. Unlike deer, migratory geese and ducks do not cause

widespread, sustained crop depredation that would necessitate expanded harvest opportunities. As such, conservation of the resource should take precedence over hunter preference.

MGPA respectfully supports House Bill 1063 with amendments. We strongly support expanded opportunities to harvest deer to address ongoing crop damage and agricultural losses. However, we urge the Committee to amend the bill to remove the authorization for Sunday hunting of migratory game birds in order to protect vulnerable migratory waterfowl populations.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Maryland agriculture and natural resources.

Amendment:

(13) ~~(I) [A person may not]~~ ~~SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS 27 PARAGRAPH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALLOW A PERSON TO~~ hunt migratory game birds on Sunday.

~~(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOW THE FOLLOWING PERSONS TO HUNT MIGRATORY CANADA GEESE (ATLANTIC POPULATION) ON SUNDAYS DURING THE OPEN SEASON:-~~

~~—1. JUNIOR HUNTERS;—~~

~~—2. SENIOR HUNTERS;—~~

~~—3. APPRENTICE HUNTERS; AND~~

~~—4. FULL-TIME STUDENTS WHO HOLD A HUNTING LICENSE.—~~

**02.25.26 SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS House Bill 1063 N**

Uploaded by: Shelley Heller

Position: FWA



## The County Commissioners of Kent County

Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member  
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS House Bill 1063 Natural Resources – Hunting –  
Management (Cross-filed with Senate Bill 0643)

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, this letter serves as support for House Bill 1063, Natural Resources – Hunting – Management, with amendments. The Commissioners believe that Sundays provide a reliable day of rest for migratory fowl, and additional disturbance on that day would likely affect the flight and feeding behavior of geese and ducks, contributing to lower hunt quality. The bill, as drafted, removes the current Sunday prohibition and allows for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine regulations for Sunday migratory hunting. The bill also directs the DNR to permit Sunday Canada Goose hunting for youth, seniors, and students, potentially opening Sunday hunting for all migratory species. If Sunday access is limited to the named groups, other hunters lose 4–8 days of opportunity, and those who rely solely on public land lose the same number of days.

While increased access may be appropriate for overpopulated species, such as deer that cause significant crop damage, there is no comparable overpopulation issue with waterfowl. Conservation of the resource should take precedence over hunter preference. For these reasons, Kent County respectfully urges amendments to House Bill 1063.

Very truly yours,

Shelley L. Heller  
County Administrator

SLH: smb

cc: The County Commissioners of Kent County  
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs  
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz  
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist

R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Kent County Government Center

400 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620 | (410) 778-4600 ext. 4 | [kentcounty@kentgov.org](mailto:kentcounty@kentgov.org) | [kentcounty.com/government](http://kentcounty.com/government)

# **MDFB - Support with Amendments - HB1063 Natural Re**

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FWA



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

February 27, 2026

**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE: Support with Amendments of HB1063 Natural Resources - Hunting – Management**

On behalf of the more than 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I respectfully submit written testimony in support, with amendments, of HB1063 – Natural Resources – Hunting – Management.

This legislation authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to permit Sunday deer population reduction on properties experiencing significant deer damage, adjusts Sunday hunting time restrictions for deer firearms season in several counties, and repeals the prohibition on Sunday hunting for migratory game birds—allowing DNR to authorize it when appropriate.

Deer damage remains one of the most urgent concerns for our members. It is estimated that deer cause at least \$8 million in losses annually to Maryland farms, and the true number is likely higher. Increasing opportunities for hunters to access the woods is one of the most effective tools available to help mitigate this damage. Expanding Sunday hunting will allow more hunters to participate, especially those whose work schedules limit them to weekends, and will provide an additional day of pressure on deer populations in the areas that need it most.

Maryland’s mix of rural, suburban, and urban landscapes makes it challenging to apply a single statewide standard for Sunday hunting. A blanket regulation cannot account for local conditions or the unique circumstances farmers face.

The bill’s authorization for DNR to issue Sunday hunting permits to farms with documented deer damage is a meaningful, targeted solution. It ensures that the farms most significantly impacted by deer have another tool to address escalating losses, without imposing a uniform statewide mandate.

We recognize and appreciate the concerns of the equine and trail-riding community, particularly their desire to use trails safely without unexpected interactions with hunters. The bill’s modifications—requiring a 10:30 a.m. hard stop, adding a 3 p.m. to sunset restriction, and creating a 25-yard setback from designated equestrian trails—demonstrate a thoughtful balance between safety and expanded hunting access. These provisions help protect trail users while still allowing farmers and hunters meaningful opportunities to manage deer populations.



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

Maryland Farm Bureau requests one amendment: removal of the language on page 7, lines 1–8 authorizing Sunday hunting for migratory waterfowl.

Many Eastern Shore farms rely on guided goose and duck hunts as a critical source of supplemental income. Expanding migratory bird hunting to Sundays raises concerns about increased pressure on already limited populations. Bag limits for these species are set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and harvest opportunities are already highly constrained. Allowing additional hunt days risks negatively affecting both waterfowl populations and the rural economies that depend on sustainable guided hunting.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully requests a favorable report with the proposed amendment removing the Sunday migratory waterfowl hunting authorization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', is written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions*

# **HOM Testimony on HB 1063 (Natural Resources -- Hun**

Uploaded by: william miles

Position: FWA



P.O. Box 501

Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

[billmilesmd@comcast.net](mailto:billmilesmd@comcast.net)

February 27, 2026

THE HONORABLE MARC KORMAN

Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee

HONORABLE MEMBERS

**RE: WITH AMENDMENT, SUPPORT FOR HOUSE 1063 (Natural Resources –  
Hunting -- Management)**

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**T**he HUNTERS OF MARYLAND, LLC represent the interests of Maryland's hunting community at both the State and local level. Few realize that hunters underwrite 100% of all wildlife management/research costs through their purchase of hunting license fees/ equipment. For the record, hunters do so willingly b/c of **American System of Conservation Funding**, a user-pay model celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which also underscores the noble story of hunters as America's original conservationists.

Steve Keithley, Founder (301/785-4774 [sssbkeith@comcast.net])

Bill Miles, Advocate (443/404-7449 [billmilesmd@comcast.net])

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT/RATIONALE:** Repeal the current statutory exclusion of "fox chasing" from the definition of "hunting" under §10–101 NR. Fox chasing involves the pursuit of wild animals on horseback with trained hounds; thus, meeting the definition of hunting regardless of whether a fox is killed. Wildlife law regulates disturbance and harassment, not just harvest, and Maryland already regulates similar dog-pursuit activities as hunting (§10–413, NR). Including "fox chasing" in the hunting definition makes common sense and it is time to recognize same by State law.



*"Hunt" means to pursue, capture, catch, kill, gig, trap, shoot, or attempt to pursue, capture, catch, kill, gig, trap, or shoot, or in any manner reduce any bird or mammal to personal possession.*

**SENIORS:** Today ENT will hear a wide array of arguments in support of HB 1063. The HUNTERS OF MARYLAND LLC are mindful of these arguments and support them. Our particular focus will be on the impact of passage from a senior perspective when it comes to Canada goose Sunday hunting...*those aging hunters whose days afield are numbered.*

Roughly one out of every three Maryland hunters is a senior; meaning, Sunday restrictions disproportionately affect older residents more than any other group. For many older hunters, Sunday hunting is not an added opportunity – it is the only practical opportunity. As we age, physical stamina declines, medical appointments sadly increase, and many seniors become dependent upon children or grandchildren for transportation and assistance in the field. Those family members typically work during the week. Sunday is often the only day when a senior can hunt safely with help.

This issue is also about health and well-being. Being afield keeps aging hunters mobile, socially connected and mentally engaged. Goose hunting is not a solitary activity – it is morning exercise, conversation in a blind, and family tradition. When access disappears, isolation increases.

Safety afield improves when seniors are accompanied. Prohibiting Sunday Canada goose hunting can push older hunters to go it alone on weekdays instead of with family support only available on weekends.

Current restrictions unintentionally disadvantage those least able to adapt; that is, seniors and families with rigid work schedules. Those with flexible weekday access are mostly unaffected. In practice, prohibition becomes an access barrier rather than a conservation measure.

From a senior perspective, HB 1063 is not about increasing harvest. It is about maintaining safe participation, preserving family traditions, and allowing seniors to remain connected to Maryland's outdoors as long as they are able to do so.

**SEASONS ARE SCIENCE-BASED:** Wildlife agencies set seasons using federal population modeling and harvest limits. Adding Sunday does not: (1) extend season length; (2) change bag limits; or (3) change federal frameworks. Simply, Sunday hunting only distributes effort and biology controls harvest...calendars do not.



## CLOSING STATEMENT

My days of goose hunting are almost over. No one can join me anymore b/c most of my 'ole hunting buddies are long gone. It saddens me just thinking about it. The thrill of being out there is not so much about pulling the trigger as it is watching the geese dance. Once you've seen it, you're hooked for life. On behalf of those of us old guys who still yearn to be out there watching the dance, I hope the Hunters of Maryland will be able to overcome any opposition and convince State lawmakers to look out for us.

Kenneth Lyons

**2026 HB 1063 hunting to DNR - revised.pdf**

Uploaded by: Barbara Sollner-Webb

Position: UNF

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

**DNR HB1063 MAWC TESTIMONY - UNFAVORABLE .pdf**

Uploaded by: Crystal Brumme Pickett

Position: UNF



**House Economic Matters Committee, March 11, 2025**

**Testimony on House Bill 1063**

Natural Resources - Hunting - Management: **UNFAVORABLE**

Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) for the preservation and promotion of countryside sports. Our members own and breed pack hounds, such as foxhounds, bassets and beagles for the pursuit by the hounds of certain quarry, with participants following on foot or horseback.

MAWC opposes House Bill 1063 as it requires elected officials to cede their power, authority and their responsibility to their constituents to the regulatory agency for a period of three years. As tempting as it may be for elected officials to delegate their rule making responsibilities to a government agency (employees of which are not directly responsible to the voters), we strongly encourage you to not abdicate your power.

**MAWC urges an UNFAVORABLE report from the committee on HB 1063.**

Sincerely,

Crystal Pickett, vice president  
[CrystalSecretary@comcast.net](mailto:CrystalSecretary@comcast.net)  
410-707-3678

# **Jacquie Cowan written testimony on DNR BILL HB1063**

Uploaded by: Jacquie cowan

Position: UNF



# *Riding To a Different Beat*

1218 Sunrise Beach Rd \* Crownsville, Md 21032 \* 410-215-4979  
[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)

February 25, 2026

To the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

**Ref: HB 1063 ..... OPPOSED (DNR Transfer of Power)**

I am submitting this written testimony against HB 1063 on behalf of our standard 300 family members, and as an Association member of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC). I am not opposed to hunting; but rather opposed to hunting on Sundays. I am in favor of shared use and enjoyment by all Marylanders and visitors.

This Bill 1063 will transfer power of decision making from you, the State Legislature, solely to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who have repeatedly shown their allegiance to the less than 3% of Maryland's population who hold hunting licenses. I demonstrate this in my own experiences this year attending, or trying to attend, key stakeholder meetings held by DNR that were by invitation only.

- 1- I did not receive an invitation to the first "Stakeholder" meeting this summer to address the ongoing Sunday Hunting issue, even though I have represented one of those stakeholders over all these years. When I asked DNR to attend, I was told "NO", as was Barb here. Out of 37 attendees, only 2 did not represent DNR or the hunting community. (6 were Legislators or their representatives)
- 2- So, the MHC lobbied for a more diverse attendance at the second summer meeting. Suggestions made not in line with DNR's thinking were poo-poo'd or ignored. I even had to stand up and ask to be heard even though I was repeatedly told I was next but not called on. This bill and DNR's report on the meeting do not accurately reflect the consensus of the meeting or the goal of finding an agreeable compromise. But rather, DNR's allegiance to the less than 3% of Marylanders who hold hunting licenses.
- 3- Then at this fall DNR meeting to review the proposed 2026-2027 Hunting Regulations, that again was by invitation only, I was one of two who did not represent DNR or the hunting community. Sunday Hunting was not a topic or included in the overview

I ask you, can the public and your constituents expect to be fairly represented and considered when DNR repeatedly shows such allegiance to the less than 3% of Marylanders who have hunting licenses, and ignore the 97% who do not?????

There are other concerns about this bill that my colleagues will address like:

- a. How / who will designate "equestrian trails"?
- b. Why just equestrian trails – don't other trail users deserve at least the same protection?
- c. Is 25 yards really a safe distance from trails?
- d. Allows for Sunday hunting of migratory birds, which may be in opposition to the science.
- e. Adds a new afternoon time of 3:00 to sunset that further takes away from others' opportunities.
- f. Scariest of all, this bill would make it so hunting on all these Sundays could never be lessened, even though most Marylanders are not in favor of it.

On the overall question about Sunday Hunting, the hunters tell you they need Sundays because they work all week and their children have sports on Saturdays. Well, the same is true for most others wanting to have that one day. The deer population is now in a management and preservation mode, so the original reason for Sunday hunting's need to decrease the herds no longer exists. You may not be aware that many horse owners do not have a trailer to load up and go somewhere away from home that would be safer to ride.

Traditionally, trail riders and other Maryland outdoor enthusiasts waited until Sunday to conduct their activities to stay out of the way from hunters, and to feel safe being outdoors. That is no longer true with the continued addition of Sundays into the hunting calendars.

**I believe there is a much simpler solution to the continued debate over Sundays for hunting, and the patchwork hunting calendar it has caused that would be fairer to the greater Maryland population --- Return to the original NO MORE SUNDAYS at all.**

I implore you please – give this HB1036 an unfavorable report. And the same for any future bills that would add more Sundays to any species or season.

Respectfully,

Jacquie Cowan  
Association Representative to the Maryland Horse Council  
Anne Arundel Coordinator for TROT (Trail Riders of Today)  
Event Organizer for Tuckahoe Equestrian Center  
Retired Mounted Search and Rescue  
Former Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP) for DNR

**hunting accident report 2007-2025 copy.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

# Excerpts from 19 years of DNR's Annual Hunting Accident Reports

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/pages/hunting-incident-reports.aspx>

## 2025

— — A 16-year-old Howard County deer hunter was shot in the arm during a deer drive with a group of hunters. The victim was walking in the woods with a large group of hunters. The hunters were separated and attempted to shoot at a deer while it was running. The deer ran in-between two groups while multiple hunters were shooting at it.

— — A 75-year-old Harford County deer hunter attempted to shoot a deer but missed and the bullet traveled through the window of a house and onto the kitchen floor. The deer was estimated to be 80 yards away.

## 2024

— — A 14-year-old Caroline County dove hunter shot a dove from his original location in a sunflower field. The hunter went to retrieve the dove but it flushed up from its location. The hunter fired one shot at the flying dove and the pellets traveled approximately 50 yards beyond the intended target and struck another hunter in the back.

— — A 64-year-old Dorchester County dove hunter was hunting on a guided trip with approximately 12 other hunters. The guides placed them in a circle around the sunflower field. An unidentified hunter across the field from the victim, shot at a low flying dove. The pellets from the shot struck the victim in his face, neck, arms and legs.

— — A 65-year-old Anne Arundel County hunter fired his 10 gauge shotgun at a flying goose and hit a house. The hunter mistakenly loaded his shotgun with a slug when he fired at the goose. The slug traveled through the exterior house wall and into furniture.

— — A 59-year-old Talbot County waterfowl hunter hit a vehicle passing by on an adjacent road while shooting at a flying goose. The hunter's location was approximately 160 yards away from the road but the trajectory of the pellets from the shot reached the passing car.

— — A 24-year-old Frederick County deer hunter attempted to shoot a deer but missed and the bullet traveled through the roof of a house and onto the living room floor. The deer was estimated to be 80 yards away but the angle and direction of the shot put the house in the backdrop. The hunter believed the muzzleloader he was using may not have been sighted in.

## 2023

— — A 59-year-old Talbot County Deer hunter was shot by another hunter from approximately 105 yards away. The victim was standing in the woods wearing an orange jacket when he heard a gunshot and felt pain in his side. The subject who fired the shot was aiming at a deer and missed causing the bullet to travel beyond his intended target striking the victim. The hunters were both hunting from the ground and could not see each other at the time the shot was fired.

— — A 25-year-old Somerset County Deer hunter was shot in the leg by another hunter while walking out of the woods. The victim was walking to his truck at approximately 1745 hours when another hunter thought he was a deer and shot the subject with his bow.

## 2022

— — A 48-year-old Worcester County Squirrel Hunter was hunting with his 15- year-old son. They were walking approximately 100 yards apart when the subjects' son shot at a squirrel on the ground. The Rimfire .22 long rifle caliber bullet ricocheted off the ground and struck the victim in his left shoulder. The trees and brush between the father and son made each of them unaware of the others location.

— A 46-year-old Howard County Turkey Hunter was shot in the face and chest by a 75-year-old Howard County Turkey Hunter. The 75-year-old subject saw the other hunter approximately 40 yards away and thought it was a turkey.

## 2021

— A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries..

## 2020

--- A Frederick County resident observed damage to the exterior of their residence, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. While investigating officers located no hunting activity in the area, the incident did occur during the end of spring turkey season. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County resident observed damage to their vehicle's windshield, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting and there were reports of numerous shots leading up to the incident. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County waterfowl hunter, returning from a hunt, observed damage to their parked vehicle's tailgate, which consisted of a rifle round lodged into the plastic molding of said tailgate. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A 17 year-old Wicomico County Waterfowl Hunter was underway in a vessel with other hunters when they were struck with shotgun pellets. Investigation revealed that other members of the victim's hunting party were on shore and approximately 50-60 yards away when a 20 year-old fired a shot towards the victim's vessel in an alleged attempt to scare him and his hunting party. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries. Natural resources / criminal charges were filed against the shooter in this incident.

— A 14 year-old Somerset County Turkey Hunter (Firearms - Junior Hunt Days) was on foot and stalking turkeys with other juvenile hunters and under adult supervision. As the juveniles were walking 50-70 yards apart, under thick tree cover and out of sight from one another, a 14-year old shooter observed a turkey and fired their shotgun twice at said game. As a result, shotgun pellets ultimately struck the victim. The shooter was not aware that the victim was in the background. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

## 2019

---- A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

--- An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

---- A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage.

## 2018

No relevant reports

## 2017

--- A 26 year old Talbot County deer hunter (firearms season) shot at two deer with 12 gauge shotgun slugs. The first deer was struck and ran 40 yards before collapsing, the second deer was shot at but the first slug went over its back, the second shot dropped the deer in the location where it was standing. Apparently the slug that missed struck an occupied residence just to one side of the front door. Upon a 911 call a sheriff's department deputy had searched and located the lone hunter. After an investigation by NRP the hunter was charged with negligent hunting and discharging a firearm within the safety zone. Property damage only

--- An unknown Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) sent a 7mm projectile through the side of a residence, through the bedroom wall, through a wooden dresser, then through a closet wall before coming to rest in a pile of towels in the closet. Two people were in the bedroom at the time but neither was injured. A search of nearby farms was unsuccessful in locating any hunter(s). Property damage only

--- A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (late firearms season) took two shots at a deer with a 30/30 rifle toward the direction of a neighboring farm. One of the shots (both of which missed the deer) struck a dining room window of the adjacent residence and stopped, being found on the windowsill. During the investigation it was determined that the round that struck the window had ricocheted off of the ground. The distance from the shooter to the house was 398 yards.

(DNR's on-line annual report for 2017 is identical to DNR'S 2016's report – the 2016 appears to be missing)

## 2015

--- A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was

listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey. Non-Fatal

## 2014

--- A 50 year old Carroll County Fox Hunter sent a 6mm rifle round through a patio glass door. The round went through a vinyl garden hose and a plastic lawn chair before going through the door and striking a kitchen chair. The homeowner was the only occupant in the residence at the time and they were in bed sleeping.

--- A 52 year old Kent County Turkey Hunter (Spring Season) took two shots at a gobbler out in an open field. The second shot was at the bird while in flight. One pellet struck the storm door of an adjacent house causing the glass to shatter. The homeowner was present in the home at the time.

## 2013

--- A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit

--- A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles.

--- A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone ---discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandelier in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

--- A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away. Property Damage Only

--- A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game)

## 2012

--- A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

--- A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the homeowner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking

the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation.

## 2011

--- A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard. Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

--- A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass.

--- A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

--- A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys 40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodged in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a redmark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

## 2010

--- During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

--- A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.

--- A 53 year old Howard County deer hunter was shot by his 36 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a standing deer with a .12 gauge slug in an open field at approximately 243 yards. The bullet missed the deer, striking the victim sitting in a wooden ground blind at the opposite end of the field. The victim received injuries to his right arm and hand. Non Fatal. Charges pending an investigation

--- A 46 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunting was shot by his 25 year old hunting companion. With both subjects participating in a deer drive, the shooter shot at a running deer twice with a .20 gauge shotgun slug. A slug traveled 70 yards, striking the victim positioned at the opposite end of the field in the left leg. Non Fatal. Negligent Hunting charges pending.

--- A 55 year old Dorchester County rabbit hunter was shot by his 55 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a running rabbit with a .20 gauge shotgun in a thicket. The shot pellets traveled approximately 30 to 40 feet through the thicket striking the victim. The victim received injuries to the right side of his head, neck, eye, arm and left

--- A Frederick County garage window was struck by a bullet from an unknown source. An investigation could not recover the projectile nor related evidence. This incident occurred during the firearm's deer season.

## 2009

--- A 57 year-old goose hunter in Kent County was shot by another hunter while attempting to retrieve a wounded goose. The victim received a minor wound to the face from a shotgun pellet which deflected off the water striking the victim.

--- A window was broken at an occupied daycare facility from a slug fired by a shotgun in Howard County. Several hunters were found in the area and interviewed by several police agencies. Negligent hunting charges were filed, but the States Attorney elected not to prosecute due to insufficient evidence.

--- A window in a house was struck and broken by a sabot round fired by a deer hunter in Talbot County. The investigation found that in this case , the hunter was not negligent and charges were not filed.

--- While checking vacant buildings, several Frederick County Sheriff Deputy vehicles were struck by shot gun pellets causing minor damage. Several individuals who were hunting quail in the area were located and charges were filed by the States Attorney's office for Reckless Endangerment.

--- A 69 year-old deer hunter in Dorchester County found himself in the middle of a deer drive on a wildlife refuge. After hearing several shots the hunter realized that his shotgun had been struck on the barrel and magazine by lead shot. The shooter was never found or located.

## 2008

--- A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

--- A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

--- A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

## 2007

--- A 51 year-old Caroline County quail hunter shot his hunting partner when a quail flew between them. The victim received 4 pellets to his upper body.

---A 54 year-old Talbot County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them and the shooter shot at the deer. The shooter hit the deer and shrapnel from the slug hit the victim in the hand causing minor injuries.

--- A 59 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them. The victim was below field level, climbing a hill out of site of the shooter. He received neck injuries.

--- A 38 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the shoulder by his 16 year-old hunting partner when the victim was moving through bushes and mistaken for game. Victim was not wearing fluorescent orange.

--- A 64 year-old Charles County Turkey hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the victim started to retrieve a turkey and was mistaken for another turkey by the shooter. Victim received 4 pellet wounds to various parts of the body.

## INCIDENTS -- NOT REPORTED IN DNR ACCIDENT REPORTS (2016 to present)– that were recorded in other news sources:

--- **MD: Woman attempting to shoot groundhog accidentally hits man fishing at park**

May 28, 2019

The Maryland Natural Resource Police are investigating an incident of a bullet that grazed a man in the shoulder on Sunday afternoon.

According to police, a 61-year-old woman was shooting a groundhog in her backyard, which borders the Smithsburg Lions Community Park.

The woman missed and the bullet ricocheted across the water and struck a 28-year-old man who was fishing.

Officials said there doesn't seem to be any issues with limitation, however the shooter is responsible for anything in background, like in this case, the park....

--- **Fatality** : Maryland Natural Resources police were investigating a fatal hunting accident in Frederick County on Saturday, the opening day of deer season for firearms.

Police said the rifle of a first-time hunter from Altadena, Calif., was accidentally discharged while he was deer hunting on private property on Eylers Valley Flint Road near Thurmont. Police identified the victim as Vincent Cavallo, 32.

Cavallo and his uncle were hunting in separate areas of the property when the uncle heard a gunshot. He went to check on his nephew and found him dead, DNR police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said. Police were called to the scene at 9:24 a.m.

Police said the victim is believed to have slipped or dropped the gun and it discharged, hitting him in the head. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Natural Resources police were assisted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department in the investigation.

[lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com](mailto:lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com)

--- Author: Scott Broom

Published: 6:07 PM EDT October 24, 2016

The mystery is still not solved after an 87-year old man was apparently struck (ed. note: in the head) by a shotgun pellet or bullet fragment while walking on his property in rural Montgomery County Saturday. Authorities suspect a hunting accident, but they don't know who fired the shot or from where. Residents and hunters say they are deeply concerned by the incident. The victim's property is on the boundary of the Patuxent River State Park where hunting with firearms is permitted. Hunters may not fire guns within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling without a residents' permission, even if the hunter is on another property or public land nearby. Maryland averages 2-3 hunting accidents involving firearms annually. The victim is almost always a hunter. Doctors removed a metallic object from his skull.

NOTE: see more of this episode at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html)

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wusa9.com/amp/article/news/local/mystery-surrounds-shooting-of-elderly-md-man-walking-home/65-340868641>

--- **Fatality**: Oct 11, 2015 - WASHINGTON — A 75-year-old huntsman was fatally *shot during* a hunting trip Saturday *in* Queen Anne's County, ... *Marvin Bowen Coppage*, a resident of *Henderson*, was hired to lead a guided *pheasant and chukar* hunt.

--- 2014 A mountain biker was peppered by bird shot while riding his bike in the Tuckahoe State Park on Maryland's Eastern Shore (related by Tuckahoe park staff) knowledge)

Citizen report:

Date: March 15, 2019 at 9:15:38 AM EDT

To: <mwc.dnr@maryland.gov>, <animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov>, <hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Hunting Violation in Western Howard County

Hello,

I want to report a hunting violation that I encountered yesterday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Woodbine parcel of the Patuxent State Park.

I was in the park on horseback and one or two people began shooting firearms near the trail head that is immediately north of the farm at 4505 Jennings Chapel Road.

I hollered several times so that they could hear that I was there and stop shooting long enough for me to get out of the park. They were shooting between me and the closest way out of the park so my way was totally blocked.

They did not stop shooting even as I hollered and eventually my very sane and experienced horse bolted to try to get away from the noise, which was echoing everywhere.

Luckily I am a strong rider and I did not have a mishap but my horse was badly frightened, as was I, frankly. It was mainly luck that we did not run into a tree or barbed wire or worse.

Once I finally got to the trail head – after picking my way along as close to the edge of the park as I possibly could on the theory they would not fire towards residences – I saw their vehicles and got their license plates. They were both Maryland vehicles, one was 5CC8856 and the other was 5C74853.

I have attached photographs of the vehicles. I also have a photograph of my riding attire yesterday, which included a safety orange saddle pad and a reflective yellow jacket, which I can provide if necessary.

I have been riding in this part of the park for over 15 years and every time I have encountered hunters we have been courteous to one another and respectful of each other's sport and mindful of each other's safety. These people were obviously an exception.

I am happy to discuss further by telephone if necessary.

Anecdote from an MHC member:

“Riding the C&O Canal with the Chesapeake Club on a Sunday, we heard shots up ahead coming from a field across River Rd from the towpath -- we yelled ahead to let them know we were coming, the shots stopped until we were adjacent from them when shots were fired over our heads followed by laughter!!! We called 911 to report, were told someone would come check it out, but we never saw or heard anything.”

Veterinarians report treating horses shot with firearms and bows.

Property owners report finding arrows embedded in the ground in their fields, including fields where horses are turned out.



# **Sunday Hunting Gonzales Survey - June 2018.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

June 2018  
updated  
February 2019

# Gonzales Maryland Survey



Gonzales Research  
& Media Services

Gonzales Poll

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## Background and Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore with a degree in political science.

His career began in the mid 1980s as an analyst with Mason-Dixon Opinion Research. Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for Baltimore's WMAR-TV Channel 2.

Patrick Gonzales has polled and analyzed well over a thousand elections in Maryland and across the country since that time. His polling in the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial election foreshadowed Larry Hogan's victory on Election Day.

During an interview at WBAL 1090 AM radio in Baltimore, Maryland on October 27, 2016, Mr. Gonzales was one of the very few pollsters in the nation to state publicly that Donald Trump would win the 2016 presidential election.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services*** from June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A total of 800 registered voters in Maryland, who indicated that they are likely to vote in the November 2018 general election, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline and cell phone numbers. A cross-section of interviews was conducted throughout the state, reflecting general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), per accepted statistical standards, is a range of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. If the entire population was surveyed, there is a 95% probability that the true numbers would fall within this range.

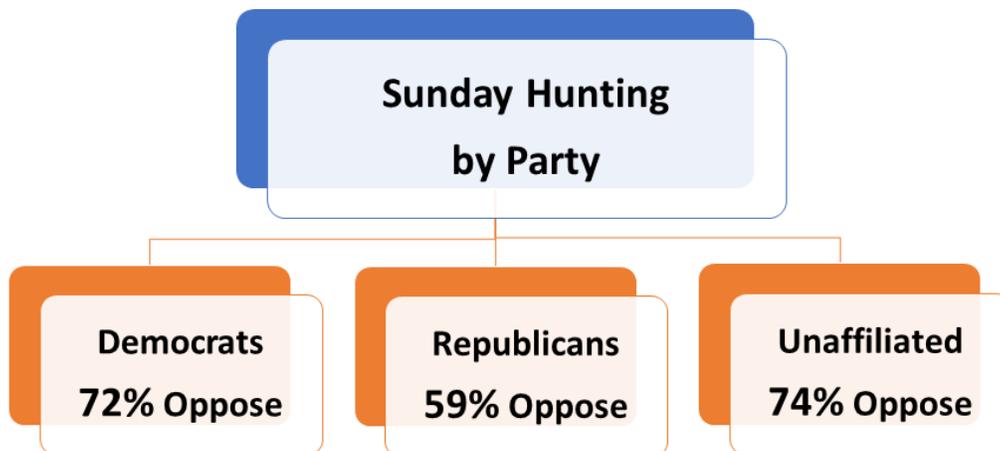
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## Results Overview

Among Maryland voters, 79% favor requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland (59% “strongly favor” and 20% “somewhat favor”), while 13% oppose a basic skill test (5% “strongly oppose” and 8% “somewhat oppose”), and 8% offer no opinion. Strong support for a basic skill test spans all demographic groups.

All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt six days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting, while others say six days a week is enough. When we asked voters statewide, 22% favor legislation that would add Sunday hunting (14% “strongly favor” and 8% “somewhat favor”), while 69% oppose adding Sunday hunting (54% “strongly oppose” and 15% “somewhat oppose”), with 9% not responding.

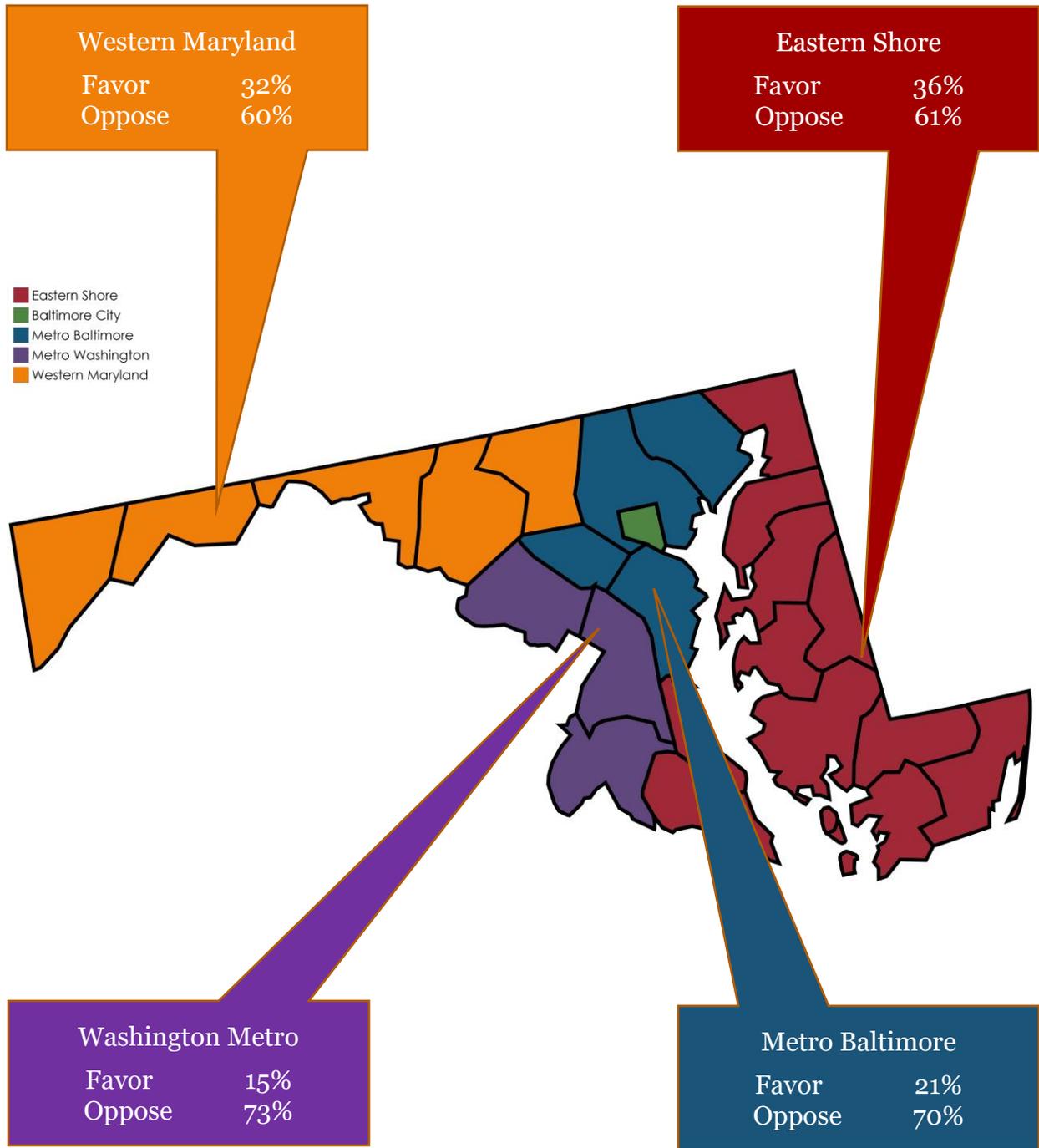
Men and women, young and old, Democrats, Republicans, and independents, all oppose vigorously adding Sunday hunting.



Eleven percent of Marylanders are aware that in counties where Sunday hunting was added, the Department of Natural Resources’ own data failed to prove the addition of Sunday Hunting significantly increased the total amount of deer killed, 72% are not aware of the DNR data, and 17% gave no response.

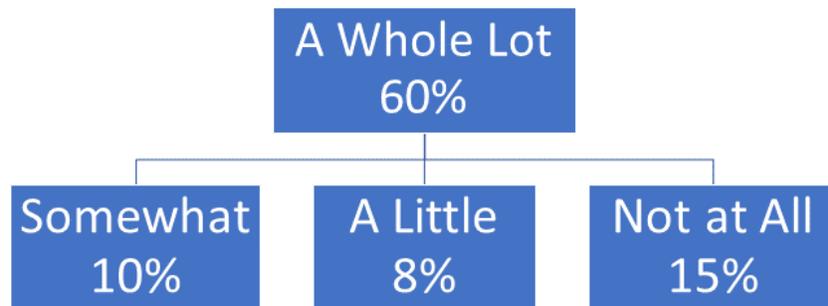
Maps

**Sunday Hunting**



Adding a seventh day of hunting would cause Marylanders across the state to alter their Sunday recreational plans considerably: 60% say Sunday hunting would make them change their plans to participate in recreational activities on that day “a whole lot,” 10% say it would change their plans “somewhat,” 8% “a little,” and 15% “not at all.”

## Sunday Hunting – Impact on Recreational Plans



Currently, most counties in Maryland have a one hundred and fifty yards safety zone, which prohibits hunting within one hundred and fifty yards of an occupied structure, such as your home.

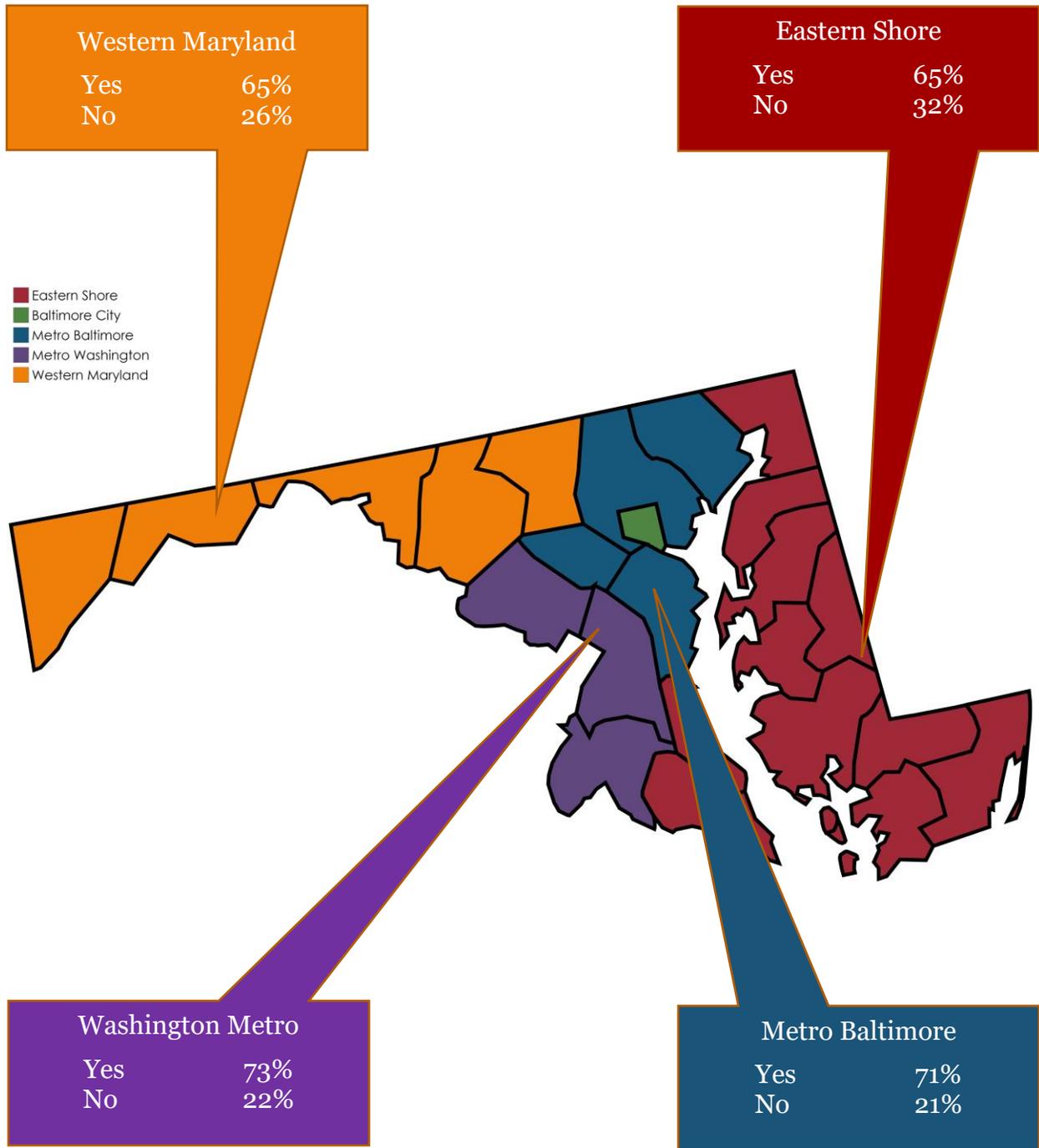
Twelve percent of voters favor legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure (6% “strongly favor” and 6% “somewhat favor”), while 84% oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance (74% “strongly oppose” and 10% “somewhat oppose”), with only 3% not sure.

Eighty-four percent of men and 85% of women oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to fifty yards of an occupied structure.

Eighty-five percent of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 85% of voters unaffiliated with either party oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to fifty yards of an occupied structure.

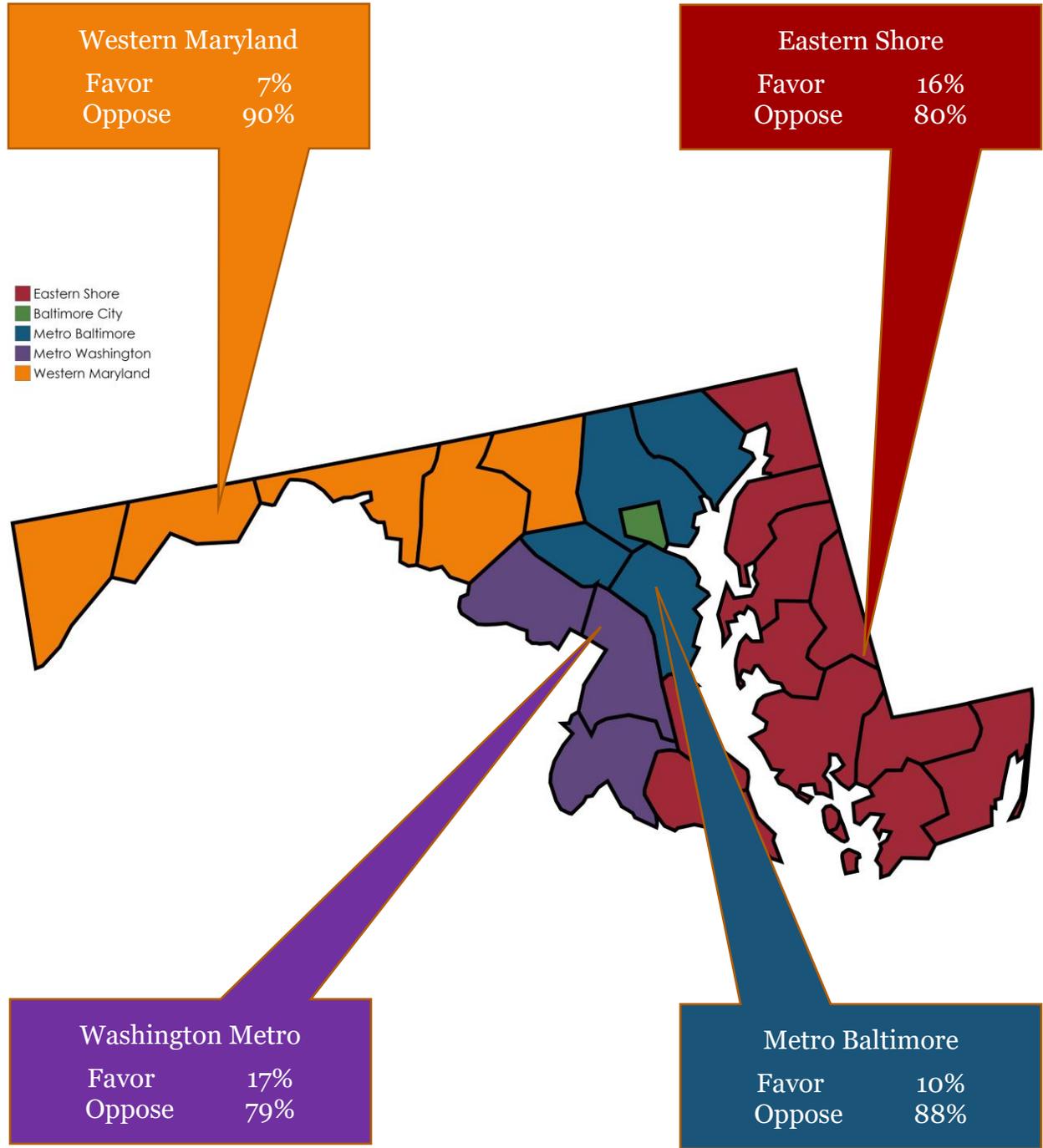
Maps

**Sunday Hunting – Alter Recreational Plans**

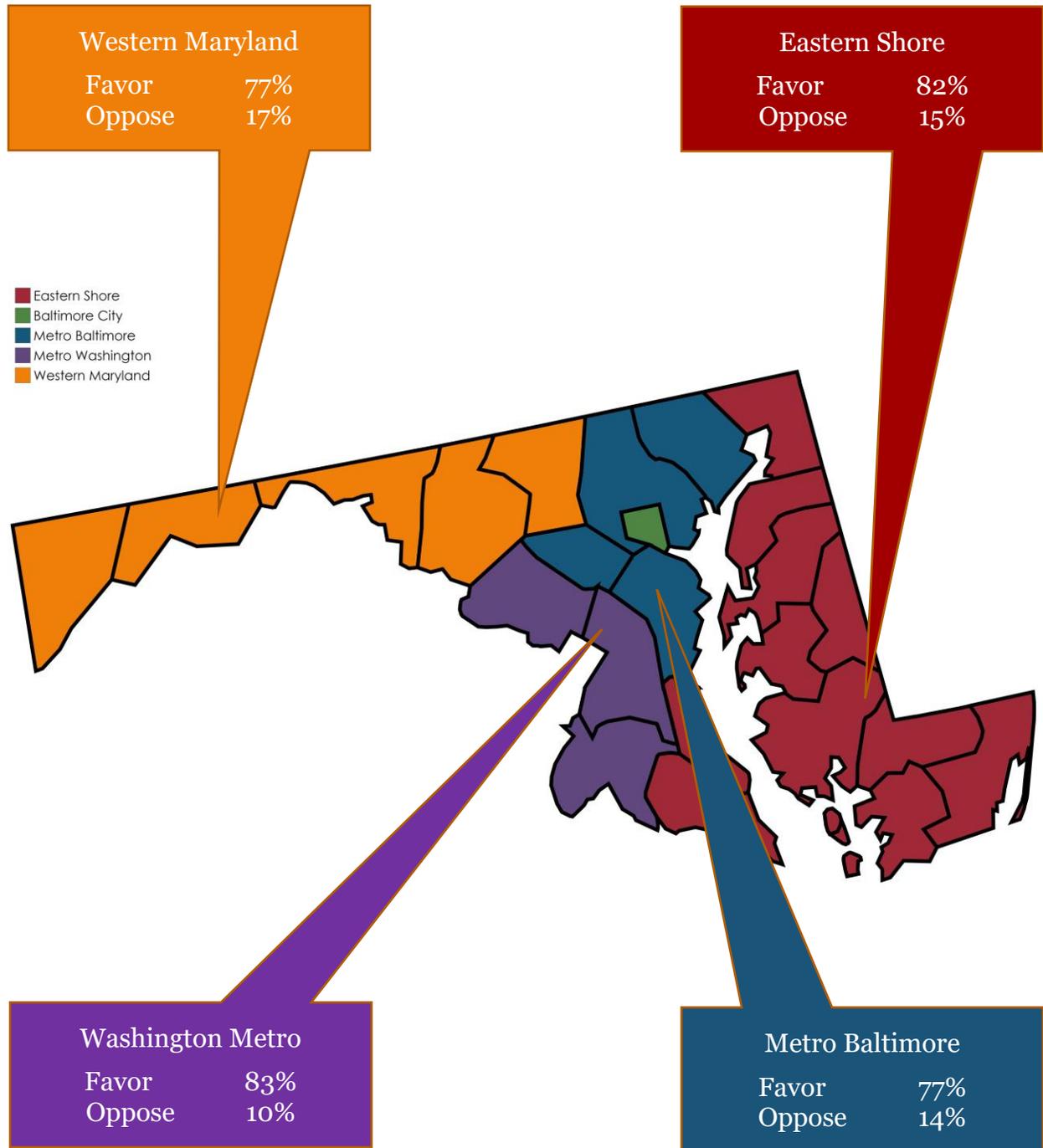


Maps

**Legislation to Reduce Safety Zone Distance**



**Requiring Basic Skill Test**



## Appendix A: Data Tables

**QUESTION #1 Test To Get Hunting License** *Do you favor or oppose requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland?*

<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	635	79.4 %
Oppose	104	13.0 %
No answer	61	7.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland?***

<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Favor	471	58.9 %
Somewhat Favor	164	20.5 %
Somewhat Oppose	61	7.6 %
Strongly Oppose	43	5.4 %
No answer	61	7.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>				
	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY

Democrat	264 58.8%	95 21.2%	24 5.3%	19 4.2%	47 10.5%
Republican	137 60.6%	48 21.2%	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	9 4.0%
Unaffiliated	70 56.0%	21 16.8%	23 18.4%	6 4.8%	5 4.0%

N=800

	<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>				
	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	213 57.0%	81 21.7%	30 8.0%	27 7.2%	23 6.1%
Female	258 60.6%	83 19.5%	31 7.3%	16 3.8%	38 8.9%

N=800

BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

RACE

White	316 59.3%	112 21.0%	41 7.7%	31 5.8%	33 6.2%
African-American	128 58.7%	42 19.3%	17 7.8%	10 4.6%	21 9.6%
Other	27 55.1%	10 20.4%	3 6.1%	2 4.1%	7 14.3%

N=800

BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	102 62.6%	31 19.0%	14 8.6%	8 4.9%	8 4.9%
Xennial	65 53.3%	27 22.1%	11 9.0%	5 4.1%	14 11.5%
Gen X	88 56.1%	38 24.2%	9 5.7%	12 7.6%	10 6.4%
Gen Jones	104 59.8%	34 19.5%	12 6.9%	9 5.2%	15 8.6%
Boomer	112 60.9%	34 18.5%	15 8.2%	9 4.9%	14 7.6%

N=800

BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

REGION

Baltimore Metro	197 57.1%	68 19.7%	30 8.7%	19 5.5%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	169 62.6%	54 20.0%	11 4.1%	15 5.6%	21 7.8%
Rural Maryland	105 56.8%	42 22.7%	20 10.8%	9 4.9%	9 4.9%

**QUESTION #2 Sunday Hunting – Favor/Oppose** *All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt 6 days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting STATEWIDE, while others say 6 days a week is enough and they just want one day without weapons in their neighborhoods and parks. Do you favor or oppose legislation that would add Sunday hunting, giving hunters 7 days a week?*

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Favor	175	21.9 %
Oppose	551	68.9 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?***

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	108	13.5 %
Somewhat Favor	67	8.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	123	15.4 %
Strongly Oppose	428	53.5 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	41 9.1%	38 8.5%	68 15.1%	257 57.2%	45 10.0%
Republican	58 25.7%	19 8.4%	27 11.9%	107 47.3%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	10 8.0%	28 22.4%	64 51.2%	14 11.2%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	78 20.9%	30 8.0%	53 14.2%	184 49.2%	29 7.8%
Female	30 7.0%	37 8.7%	70 16.4%	244 57.3%	45 10.6%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

RACE

White	86 16.1%	47 8.8%	77 14.4%	277 52.0%	46 8.6%
African-American	17 7.8%	17 7.8%	37 17.0%	122 56.0%	25 11.5%
Other	5 10.2%	3 6.1%	9 18.4%	29 59.2%	3 6.1%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	20 12.3%	7 4.3%	29 17.8%	93 57.1%	14 8.6%
Xennial	11 9.0%	11 9.0%	22 18.0%	68 55.7%	10 8.2%
Gen X	23 14.6%	10 6.4%	24 15.3%	80 51.0%	20 12.7%
Gen Jones	37 21.3%	19 10.9%	25 14.4%	77 44.3%	16 9.2%
Boomer	17 9.2%	20 10.9%	23 12.5%	110 59.8%	14 7.6%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

REGION

Baltimore Metro	39 11.3%	32 9.3%	57 16.5%	186 53.9%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	16 5.9%	41 15.2%	155 57.4%	33 12.2%
Rural Maryland	44 23.8%	19 10.3%	25 13.5%	87 47.0%	10 5.4%

**QUESTION #3 Sunday Hunting - Awareness** *Are you aware, or not aware, that in counties where Sunday Hunting was added, the Department of Natural Resources' own data failed to prove the addition of Sunday Hunting significantly increased the total amount of deer killed?*

<u>DNR DATA</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Aware	87	10.9 %
Not Aware	580	72.5 %
No answer	133	16.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800	<u>DNR DATA</u>		
	<u>Aware</u>	<u>Not Aware</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY

Democrat	41 9.1%	334 74.4%	74 16.5%
Republican	37 16.4%	153 67.7%	36 15.9%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	93 74.4%	23 18.4%

N=800	<u>DNR DATA</u>		
	<u>Aware</u>	<u>Not Aware</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	48 12.8%	262 70.1%	64 17.1%
Female	39 9.2%	318 74.6%	69 16.2%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>RACE</u>			
White	58 10.9%	382 71.7%	93 17.4%
African-American	25 11.5%	162 74.3%	31 14.2%
Other	4 8.2%	36 73.5%	9 18.4%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>			
Millennial	17 10.4%	116 71.2%	30 18.4%
Xennial	12 9.8%	92 75.4%	18 14.8%
Gen X	18 11.5%	115 73.2%	24 15.3%
Gen Jones	24 13.8%	128 73.6%	22 12.6%
Boomer	16 8.7%	129 70.1%	39 21.2%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>REGION</u>			
Baltimore Metro	32 9.3%	258 74.8%	55 15.9%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	204 75.6%	41 15.2%
Rural Maryland	30 16.2%	118 63.8%	37 20.0%

**QUESTION #4 Sunday Hunting – Alter Plans** *If you were aware that a hunter with a crossbow or firearm could be in an area where you want to participate in recreational activities on a Sunday, would this cause you to alter your plans: a whole lot, somewhat, a little, or not at all?*

<u>ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A Whole Lot	482	60.3 %
Somewhat	78	9.8 %
A Little	63	7.9 %
Not At All	122	15.3 %
No answer	55	6.9 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	<u>A Whole Lot</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>No answer</u>
--	--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-------------------	------------------

PARTY

Democrat	286 63.7%	38 8.5%	29 6.5%	65 14.5%	31 6.9%
Republican	124 54.9%	26 11.5%	23 10.2%	38 16.8%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	72 57.6%	14 11.2%	11 8.8%	19 15.2%	9 7.2%

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	<u>A Whole Lot</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>No answer</u>
--	--------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-------------------	------------------

GENDER

Male	211 56.4%	40 10.7%	37 9.9%	62 16.6%	24 6.4%
Female	271 63.6%	38 8.9%	26 6.1%	60 14.1%	31 7.3%

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
--	-------------	----------	----------	------------	-----------

RACE

White	315 59.1%	51 9.6%	53 9.9%	79 14.8%	35 6.6%
African-American	135 61.9%	21 9.6%	9 4.1%	35 16.1%	18 8.3%
Other	32 65.3%	6 12.2%	1 2.0%	8 16.3%	2 4.1%

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
--	-------------	----------	----------	------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	99 60.7%	14 8.6%	14 8.6%	25 15.3%	11 6.7%
Xennial	72 59.0%	11 9.0%	8 6.6%	26 21.3%	5 4.1%
Gen X	103 65.6%	12 7.6%	12 7.6%	17 10.8%	13 8.3%
Gen Jones	96 55.2%	19 10.9%	17 9.8%	27 15.5%	15 8.6%
Boomer	112 60.9%	22 12.0%	12 6.5%	27 14.7%	11 6.0%

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
--	-------------	----------	----------	------------	-----------

REGION

Baltimore Metro	211 61.2%	32 9.3%	30 8.7%	43 12.5%	29 8.4%
Washington Metro	176 65.2%	21 7.8%	13 4.8%	46 17.0%	14 5.2%
Rural Maryland	95 51.4%	25 13.5%	20 10.8%	33 17.8%	12 6.5%

**QUESTION #5 Safety Zone Reduction** *Currently, most counties in Maryland have a 150 yard safety zone, which prohibits hunting within 150 yards of an occupied structure, such as your home. Now that archery crossbows can shoot an arrow almost 150 yards in just one second, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?*

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Favor	100	12.5 %
Oppose	673	84.1 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?***

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	49	6.1 %
Somewhat Favor	51	6.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	77	9.6 %
Strongly Oppose	596	74.5 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	28 6.2%	25 5.6%	43 9.6%	337 75.1%	16 3.6%
Republican	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	22 9.7%	165 73.0%	7 3.1%
Unaffiliated	7 5.6%	8 6.4%	12 9.6%	94 75.2%	4 3.2%

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	20 5.3%	27 7.2%	35 9.4%	279 74.6%	13 3.5%
Female	29 6.8%	24 5.6%	42 9.9%	317 74.4%	14 3.3%

N=800

## REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

RACE

White	27 5.1%	33 6.2%	47 8.8%	409 76.7%	17 3.2%
African-American	18 8.3%	17 7.8%	23 10.6%	152 69.7%	8 3.7%
Other	4 8.2%	1 2.0%	7 14.3%	35 71.4%	2 4.1%

N=800

## REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	6 3.7%	6 3.7%	15 9.2%	129 79.1%	7 4.3%
Xennial	7 5.7%	9 7.4%	7 5.7%	98 80.3%	1 0.8%
Gen X	11 7.0%	11 7.0%	13 8.3%	114 72.6%	8 5.1%
Gen Jones	14 8.0%	10 5.7%	18 10.3%	129 74.1%	3 1.7%
Boomer	11 6.0%	15 8.2%	24 13.0%	126 68.5%	8 4.3%

N=800

## REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

REGION

Baltimore Metro	12 3.5%	21 6.1%	33 9.6%	269 78.0%	10 2.9%
Washington Metro	28 10.4%	18 6.7%	23 8.5%	191 70.7%	10 3.7%
Rural Maryland	9 4.9%	12 6.5%	21 11.4%	136 73.5%	7 3.8%

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 Maryland General Election Poll Sample Demographics

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	449	56.1 %
Republican	226	28.3 %
Unaffiliated	125	15.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	374	46.8 %
Female	426	53.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Millennial (18 to 34 years old)	163	20.4 %
Xennial (35 to 44 years old)	122	15.3 %
Gen X (45 to 54 years old)	157	19.6 %
Gen Jones (55 to 64 years old)	174	21.8 %
Boomer (65 and older)	184	23.0 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	533	66.6 %
African-American	218	27.3 %
Other	49	6.1 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baltimore Metro	345	43.1 %
Washington Metro	270	33.8 %
Rural Maryland	185	23.1 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>RURAL MARYLAND</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eastern Shore	89	48.1 %
Western Maryland	96	51.9 %
Total	185	100.0 %

**testimony - DNR Sunday hunting.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF



MARYLAND  
**HORSE**  
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 610 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797  
[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

*One Common Bond: The Horse*  
*One Common Voice: The Horse Council*

In the House Environment & Transportation Committee, February 27, 2026

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 1063

Natural Resources - Hunting - Management - UNFAVORABLE

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The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent the interests of over 700,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

HB 1063 grants sweeping and unprecedented powers to DNR to expand all types of Sunday hunting without granting reasonable access for input from the non-hunting public. It must be rejected.

HB 1063

- Will transfer control of Sunday hunting regulation from the State Legislators, who represent all of their constituents, to the MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which, as a practical matter, routinely represents just hunters on this issue, even though a majority of Maryland residents oppose Sunday hunting.

- Creates a three year pilot program to implement this transfer of power, and prohibits DNR from ever authorizing any fewer Sunday hunting days/times than are in effect when the pilot program begins, so the program is conceived and designed to only expand Sunday hunting.
- Appears to create a blanket allowance of Sunday hunting on public land (except for the state park system).
- Allows year-round 7-day-a-week hunting of deer on any property of 10 acres or more that has deer damage to crops, forests, or landscaping, and allows shooting in those cases as long as it is at least 25 yards from DNR designated equestrian trails.
- Generally allows Sunday hunting of migratory game birds.
- Adds a second 3:00 pm-to-sunset Sunday hunting period to counties that currently have a 10:30 am cut off.

This bill would make it State law that Sunday hunting can never be curtailed, and only expanded, in the future, despite that fact that a majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting. An independent statewide survey conducted by Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting, and of that, 53% strongly oppose it. A copy of that survey has been filed with this testimony. Even DNR's own 2018 survey found that a majority of the general population is not in favor of Sunday hunting.<sup>1</sup>

Removing direct authority over Sunday hunting from the Legislature results in a process that is much less transparent and accessible than the current system. For example, the DNR bi-annual meetings where ideas for new regulations are discussed are by invitation only, as were the DNR meetings this summer where the idea of removing control from the Legislature was proposed. Most Marylanders do not have the bandwidth to regularly check the Maryland Register for new proposed rules, and the notice and comment

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018\\_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf)

process afforded there does not provide for oral testimony and question-and-answer interchange between the regulators and the regulated. Although the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) reviews proposed regulations, that review is limited in scope to determining whether the regulations conform to the statutory authority of the agency and the legislative intent of the statute under which the regulations are proposed. Moreover, there is no possibility for a public hearing except in some cases by request of an AELR member. Again, the public is generally unaware of this process.

Through the years MHC has testified numerous times about how Sunday hunting is not only opposed by most Marylanders, but that it is patently unsafe for hunters and non-hunters to contemporaneously share outdoor spaces. (See the Hunting Accident Report filed with this testimony). Legislation pending in this Session, SB 545/HB 716, which would require written permission for surveyors to enter private land during deer firearms season, is an acknowledgement of that very fact. During the House hearing, the sponsor stated that “every year there are accidental deaths from hunting,” and “you can’t have people walking around in the woods” . . . “the safety factor is a big thing.” It is inarguable that armed hunters present a safety risk not presented by other user groups. It just makes sense that those other user groups should have at least one day when they do not have to take that risk. That decision should be with the Legislators who represent all of their constituents. We urge the Committee not to grant unfettered power to an agency, which - for some perhaps understandable reasons - sees its constituency on hunting issues as solely hunters.

It has been argued that this legislation will help alleviate the clearly intense workload of the Legislators during Session. We fully appreciate the enormous workload of the Legislators, but would point out that, of the approximately 2500 bills introduced in each session, very few relate to Sunday hunting - For example: two in 2024, four in 2025, three in 2026 (not counting cross files of some those bills, and not counting this bill).

It has also been argued that transferring control to DNR is appropriate, as DNR is the expert on wildlife management. We acknowledge and truly

appreciate that DNR is staffed with dedicated wildlife managers. That said, the reality is that recreational Sunday hunting, while having financial benefits to DNR, is not a very effective wildlife management tool. In counties that vastly expanded Sunday hunting in 2013, the deer harvest has pretty consistently fallen year over year.<sup>2</sup>

In the course of its efforts over the years to address the Sunday hunting issue, the MHC negotiated a compromise that would allow fair shared use of natural resources, by cutting off Sunday hunting, where allowed, at 10:30 am, and this compromise has been embraced by the Legislature. This bill, at least until the pilot program goes into effect, chips away at the concept of “fair & shared” by taking more Sunday time away from non-hunters, adding a second hunting period from 3:00 pm until sunset on Sundays.

The bill allows year-round 7-day-a-week hunting of deer on any property of 10 acres or more that has deer damage to crops, forests, or landscaping - a significant expansion of the existing program for agricultural crop damage permits - and allows shooting under those permits as long as it is at least 25 yards from DNR designated equestrian trails. There are at least two very significant problems with this proposal. First, 25 yards - 75 feet - is an incredibly short distance. In Natural Resources Article Section 10-410 (g), the Legislature has determined various “safety zone” distances for discharge of weapons in certain circumstances - as much as 300 yards, but never less than 50 yards.

Also there are many, many trails used by hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, etc., - on public and private land - that are not “a Department trail designated for equestrian use,” where hunters could shoot right up to the property line.

it may be suggested that Maryland should adopt this bill because other states allow Sunday hunting to be exclusively regulated by their game

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<sup>2</sup> Allegany - An increase of from 6 to 21 Sundays. In 2013-2014, the total harvest was 3636; in 2023-24 - 2952; 2024-25 - 3412.

Frederick - Increase of from 6 to 15 Sundays. 2013-2014 - total harvest 8040; in 2023-2024 - 6549; 2024-25 =1,999 6869.

Washington - Increase of from 6 to 21 Sundays. 2013-2014 - total harvest 6376; in 2023-24 - 4418; 2024-25 - 5066.

control agencies, most recently Pennsylvania. Each state is unique. Patently, Maryland is not like Pennsylvania in many respects. For example, Pennsylvania's population density is 286 people per square mile; Maryland's is 632 people per square mile. Thus, determination of where and when discharge of weapons should be allowed has wholly different considerations.

Finally, this is a complicated bill that, while it may ultimately result in a shorter statute, may not result in a less complicated regulatory scheme.

We urge the Committee to give HB 1063 an Unfavorable Report.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL**  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)  
info@mdhorsecouncil.org

# February 25.pdf

Uploaded by: Kurt Schwarz

Position: UNF

February 25, 2026

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Bill: HB1063-Natural Resources-Hunting-Management**

**Position: Unfavorable**

Chair Korman, Deputy Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee:

I oppose HB1063 and Sunday hunting in general. Hunting is a needed and important management tool, especially for white-tailed deer. But there should be one day of the week that the general public can enjoy the outdoors and not have to wear blaze orange. This bill would extend Sunday hunting into the spring for bow hunting of turkey. It will also expand firearms hunting to Sundays in the fall.

I am a birder and spend much time in the outdoors. I only ask that one day a week be preserved for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors. I do not believe extending hunting into Sundays will have a meaningful impact on our deer overpopulation.

In past Sunday hunting bills, it has been alleged that not all hunters can go out during weekdays and need Sundays as well as Saturdays. This is a ridiculous argument. Other users of the outdoors such as birders, hikers, horseback riders, and so on, likewise may only have Saturday and Sunday to enjoy the outdoors.

I ask the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB1063,

Kurt Schwarz

Columbia, Maryland

# Hills Bridge Beagles HB1063.pdf

Uploaded by: Margaret Crane

Position: UNF



### **Hills Bridge Beagles**

## **Testimony HB 1063 – Natural Resources - Hunting - Management**

### **House Committee on the Environment and Transportation**

#### **Position: OPPOSE**

Good afternoon, Chairman Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and Honorable Committee Members

My name is Margaret Crane. I am the Joint Master of the Hills Bridge Beagles, a beagling foot pack that hunts in all the Southern Maryland Counties. The Hills Bridge Beagles (HBB) are recognized foot pack by the National Beagle Club, the AKC parent club of Beagle breed.

The HBB was formed more than 40 years ago. The pack has between 60-80 followers that come out one or more times in any given season. Our followers range from the very young to the young at heart. Beagling gives people who might not otherwise have the opportunity, a chance to get out in the natural areas, farms and countryside to enjoy all the beauty Southern Maryland has to offer.

As a threshold matter, I and the HBB completely support hunting in Maryland. I allow hunters to hunt my farm. The issue I have with HB 1063 is a very personal one, this bill will allow DNR to regulate Sunday hunting in Counties where Sunday hunting has not been allowed. If HB 1063 is passed, the effect will be the woods will be completely dedicated to the deer hunters. What does this mean for the HBB and its many followers? What it means is the HBB can either stay out of the woods all together, effectively denying our members an opportunity to get in the woods, or the HBB can run the risk of running into deer hunters who are empowered to believe that no one else should be in the woods.

A telling story about what the future holds if DNR makes all the decisions unchecked by the legislature – in 1999 Outdoors Maryland followed the Hills Bridge Beagles for several days in the field. One of the farms the film crew went to with us was Holly Beach in Anne Arundel County, Holly Beach is on the Chesapeake Bay next the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The video taken by Outdoors Maryland on Holly Beach won an Emmy and was voted Maryland's Favorite all-time dog video. I would note that the HBB can no longer hunt on the farm shown in the

Outdoors Maryland video. Several years after Outdoors Maryland shot that video the farm was purchased by Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the management of the farm was turned over to DNR. Once the management of Holly Beach was turned over to DNR, the farm was limited solely to deer hunting. The Beagles have never been allowed to use that farm even one time in the decades that followed, which is a sad commentary on resource management by DNR. DNR picks winner and losers, deer hunters are the winners and other users are the losers.

The Maryland legislature needs to continue its oversight over DNR because bureaucrats cannot be trusted to look out for the interests of the many different users of our beautiful Maryland natural resources.

If you're interested in seeing the video on the HBB on Outdoors Maryland you can do that using the following link <https://americanarchive.org/catalog/cpb-aacip-394-23hx3m9f> . Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before this committee.

Margaret Crane