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April 26, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: *House Bill 310, "Montgomery County - Deer Hunting - Sundays"*
House Bill 312, "Kent County - Deer Hunting - Sundays"
House Bill 788, "Natural Resources - Hunting - Deer Management Permits"

Dear Governor Hogan:

We have reviewed House Bill 310, House Bill 312, and House Bill 788 for constitutionality and legal sufficiency and hereby approve each. We write to point out an issue raised by the fact that the three bills amend the same section of current law. If House Bill 788 is to be signed, it should be signed last.

All three bills establish exceptions to the general prohibition on hunting game birds and mammals on Sundays, as set forth in Natural Resources Article § 10-410(a). In doing so, two of the bills (House Bill 310 and House Bill 312) amend § 10-410(a)(1) to add a new paragraph (10) to the list of paragraphs that provide exceptions to the Sunday hunting prohibition. House Bill 788 amends § 10-410(a)(1) by deleting the list of paragraphs and providing that a person may not hunt game bird or mammal on Sundays "[e]xcept as otherwise provided in this subsection."

The changes are substantively identical. However, because House Bill 788 deletes the list of paragraphs in § 10-410(a)(1), if that bill is to be signed, it should be signed last. The changes made by House Bill 788 could be merged with those made by House Bill 310 and House Bill 312 to read as follows:

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(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may not hunt any game bird or mammal on Sundays.

This language would incorporate each of the new exceptions established by the three bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian E. Frosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian E. Frosh
Attorney General

BEF/DWS/kd

cc: The Honorable John C. Wobensmith
Chris Shank
Warren Deschenaux