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Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to any increase in Sunday hunting of any type in Talbot County, MD. I have lived in Talbot County since 1946 as have all of my horses, ponies and dogs etc. I am opposed to ANY Sunday hunting because I am an active outdoor person and, unfortunately, Talbot County is already a dangerously intense hunting area.

I HAVE ALREADY HAD A HORSE SHOT AND KILLED BY HUNTERS. Her name was Chessie and she was a sweet, lovely and well-trained chestnut thoroughbred mare. As a form of semi-retirement we had just sold her to an aspiring young horsewoman ... it was love at first sight.

Unfortunately though, after being with the girl only a few months, Chessie was shot directly in the shoulder. Although the wound itself seemed limited, her pain and lameness were profound. Adding to the tragedy and everyone's distress, Chessie had to be put down on the young girl's birthday. My veterinarian was so angry he cut out the entire shoulder bone and boiled away the flesh in order to find the slug. It was embedded in the shoulder blade ... there was no doubt.

I myself have had close calls over the years. Our house was hit hard by goose hunters once, I was hit by pellets from dove hunters several times, there have been four deer die from gunshot wounds on my nine acre property, I find poacher's green reflective thumbtacks as well as illegal deer stands in my woods, and I have found trail cameras near deer habitat in my marsh as well as streamers of bright pink plastic tape marking deer trails through a fallow and overgrown field which runs the length of my driveway.

Years ago an illegal deer stand was placed on my property less than 150 yards from my house ... it was set up facing a pile of loose corn piled on the ground which in turn was lined up with the easily visible industrial-size propane tank fastened to the cottage next to my stable. My cottage and my stable are closer than 150 yards from various of my neighbors' hunting activities including, for a while, renting a goose blind with a clear shot at my horses' nearby pasture, paddock and stalls.

But, since none of this is a 'dwelling' or 'inhabited' by humans, I'm told that shooting near them, or even at them, is 'legal'.

There simply is too much hunting pressure here to consider allowing any more hunting days.

In memory of a good horse, please give us one day a week at least to enjoy nature, our friends and our beloved animals. Please say no to any new Sunday hunting.

Sincerely,

Rebecca P. Ellison, Ph.D.  
Oxford, Talbot County, MD