



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 605 – Queen Anne’s County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 605. This bill allows a person in Queen Anne's County to hunt any game bird or game mammal on a Sunday during the respective seasons. Queen Anne's County would join the same tier of Sunday hunting opportunities as Allegany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's, and Washington counties.

In general, the department strongly supports the self-determination of local jurisdictions to expand hunting opportunities within State and federal rules and regulations. Hunting remains the most cost-effective method for controlling the deer population throughout most of the State. Sunday hunting is important for expanding deer harvest opportunities if the weather causes unfavorable hunting conditions on the Saturday of the same weekend. Likewise, many hunters only have time to hunt on the weekends, and allowing Sunday hunting essentially doubles their opportunity to pursue deer and other game species.

The department therefore believes that recreational hunting will increase in Queen Anne's County as a result of SB 605. We estimate that an additional 1,000 days of recreation will be spent deer hunting. On Sundays during the 2019-2020 deer seasons in Queen Anne's County, 246 deer were harvested. The department estimates that between 50 and 100 additional deer would be harvested on the additional Sundays in Queen Anne's County as a result of this bill.

We also estimate an additional 200 days may be spent hunting all other game mammal and bird species, except migratory birds which are expressly forbidden from Sunday hunting by statute. Increased opportunities to hunt both game mammals and game

birds will result in a positive economic impact for the local recreational hunting industry.

For these reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant SB 605 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services