

February 1, 2021

Dear Members of the House Committee on the Environment and Transportation:

I write to implore you to **OPPOSE HB 225** -- the **Sunday Hunting Bill** which essentially increases the number of Sundays to hunt in Queen Anne County to include all Sundays from September through May -- and affects every outdoor enthusiast in your district, as well as those outside of it, who visit parks in neighboring Queen Anne.

Bird watchers, dog walkers, horseback riders, and families exploring the outdoors with their kids – all will be impacted by this bill. Some property owners feel they should be able to do whatever they want on their own property; but **what people do on their own property can have a direct impact on adjoining property.**

I like to ride in the woods behind my house. However, I am surrounded by several landowners who rent their property to hunters, and the property lines all abut in the woods. Bullets and arrows do not respect these property lines, and even if they did, the sound of gunshots -- and the fear of being shot -- deter me from enjoying the outdoors during the best times of the year, and for weeks -- even months -- at a time. We need to encourage children to get outside and explore nature rather than create obstacles to the outdoors.

The horse industry's \$2.1 billion impact on Maryland's economy is huge. Horse farms make up 10% of Maryland's land, and pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Bay from runoff. Other advantages of pastures? They are excellent absorbers of carbon dioxide, they are critical habitat for many grassland bird species that are in severe decline, and they provide open space for all to enjoy.

Please, in the name of equity for all and science for a better environment, **vote against HB 225!!**

Respectfully,
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