

**ALLEGANY-GARRETT
SPORTSMEN'S ASSN.**



"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country, its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife"

P.O. Box 625 * Midlothian, Maryland 21543 * www.agsclub.org

March 12, 2021

Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0637 – Allegany County and Garrett County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone

Support

Dear Honorable Delegates,

As our region continues to see development of our suburban areas, it is becoming increasingly difficult to control deer damage under the current 150-yard Safety Zone regulation. HB0637 is a "local" bill supported by hunters and farmers who are looking to increase deer harvest in problem areas by reducing the archery safety zone to 50- yards. The 150-yard distance required to hunt with a firearm would remain unchanged.

In past years, the Legislature has authorized archery hunters in many central and southern counties to use "reduced" safety zones, without incident. Counties currently under the reduced safety zones include Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary's and Washington.

Archery hunting is both a safe and effective means of deer control and has been the preferred method within many suburban areas, due to the limited shooting range.

The Allegany-Garrett Sportsmen's Association and its members wish to be recorded in **strong support** of this legislation and respectfully request a "YES" vote on HB0637.

Sincerely,

Joe L. Schroyer
Legislative Secretary
Allegany–Garrett Sportsmen's Association