



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

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 637 – Allegany County and Garrett County
– Archery Hunting – Safety Zone***

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on House Bill 637. This bill would modify the required buffer zone for archery deer hunting in Allegany and Garrett counties from 150 to 50 yards.

Several counties have reduced the required distance for archery hunters in the past decade. There is no evidence that reducing the distance has led to additional accidents or conflicts with landowners or other hunters. The reduced zone increases the number of hunting areas available to archery deer hunters. HB 637 also increases access for the harvest of deer primarily in areas where deer populations are higher due to a lack of hunting pressure. As a result, the negative consequences borne of overabundant deer populations are reduced.

Thank you for allowing the department to provide this information on HB 637 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service