



www.epicmontgomery.org

PO Box 69
Boyds, MD 20841

Board of Directors

March 7, 2022

Michael Rubin, Chairman
Allan Noble, President
Tom Gutierrez, Vice President, Secretary
Beth Daly, Treasurer
Debbie Price
Harry (Hap) Bauer
Anne Davies
Ulrike (Uli) Rodgers

Maryland House Committee on the Environment and Transportation
Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 1279; Hearing Date, March 9, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC) in opposition to House Bill 1279 which we understand will be up for hearing on March 9. By way of introduction, EPIC is a Section 501(c)3 Maryland charitable corporation. Our mission is to be a voice on behalf of the Montgomery County equestrian community and other interested parties to conserve land for equestrian purposes and increase equestrian access to private and public lands. For more information on EPIC see our website at epicmontgomery.org.

We strongly oppose this bill because it would further limit safe access to public and private lands. It would allow hunting all day on every Sunday throughout Maryland. As matters now stand, horseback riders, bikers and hikers have less and less opportunity to pursue their interests without being exposed to the dangers of hunting. This bill would further restrict the limited access that we have.

In Montgomery County we have worked hard with Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo to forge a compromise among equestrians, farmers and hunters to allow deer hunting on a number of Sundays until 10:30 AM. This recently passed legislation gives hunters an extra morning while leaving the rest of the day available for other outdoor activities. It has worked well. The passage of House Bill 1279 would rescind this legislation.

We ask that you please reject this bill. If you need more information on EPIC's position please feel free to call or write me. Thank you very much for considering our position.

Allan Noble
President
240-463-7069