

Enid Feinberg, Phoenix, MD 21131 - **I am very OPPOSED to HB 1279**

I want to thank this committee for the opportunity to explain why you should vote no for HB 1279.

First, I want to say we are just as tired of these Sunday Hunting and Safety Zone bills as you are, but that is not a good enough reason to pass such a bad bill especially when only 2% of Marylanders are hunters

I have been a member of multiple Maryland DNR Deer Stakeholders Groups including the current one for the next 15 year Deer Management Plan. I can tell you there is **no true benefit from reducing the safety zone or increasing Sunday hunting for deer population control.**

There are other non-lethal ways to manage the deer population reproduction that are not being utilized because MD DNR only profits from the sale of hunting licenses.

If Sunday and safety zone reductions were so valuable for managing the deer, you should have already seen a much greater harvest, not a relative flat line as illustrated **on the graph I have included**, even with all the added Sundays, shorter safety zones and more firearm days.

There are so many bad points that I will just start with the huge **mistake of taking away the authority of our Delegates and Senators we elected and giving it to DNR.**

Deer Management bills were passed so farmers, etc. could kill deer 365 days a year including all Sundays. So there is no true benefit from this recreational Sunday hunting bill for deer population control.

The reality is there is already enough hunting days. According to the most recent Quality Deer Management Report. Maryland hunters spent an average of 15 days afield in pursuit of deer.

Then after getting even more days including Sundays in some counties, THEY USED EVEN LESS. That statistic dropped to just 14 days.

Hunters in Maryland already can hunt for over 20 weeks, more than 130 days including 22 Saturdays, and a lot of Sundays. And what do they use just an average of 14 days!!

SO WHY GIVE THEM MORE SUNDAYS when they don't use the days they already have.

As stated in the most recent US Fish & Wildlife report, people want to photograph, observe and feed a wide variety of animals including WATERFOWL, Bear, Butterflies, Eagles and YES EVEN DEER!

Maryland needs to STOP wasting time trying to expand Sunday hunting and focus on capitalizing on this increasing tourism market, especially since the pandemic boosted outdoor recreation. Marylanders, not only don't want Sunday Hunting, they stated it could potentially alter their recreational plans costing Maryland millions in revenue!

I can say this with confidence because I have worked in tourism marketing in New York for over 30 years including many years with Forbes even while continuing to live in Baltimore County.

For every \$1.00 dollar hunters generate, **Wildlife Watchers generate \$3.00 dollars!** So what you are being told about the economic impact of adding Sunday Hunting is PURE FANTASY!

And what is most important **Marylanders Do Not Want Sunday Hunting or Safety Zones Reduced!**

Baltimore County residents have successfully fought to not allow Sunday Hunting or have our safety zone reduced and we do not want a statewide bill to circumvent our counties authority.

We have to live with your decision for years to come. I implore you to do what is fair and right and just give us one day a week, Sunday and don't reduce our safety zone!

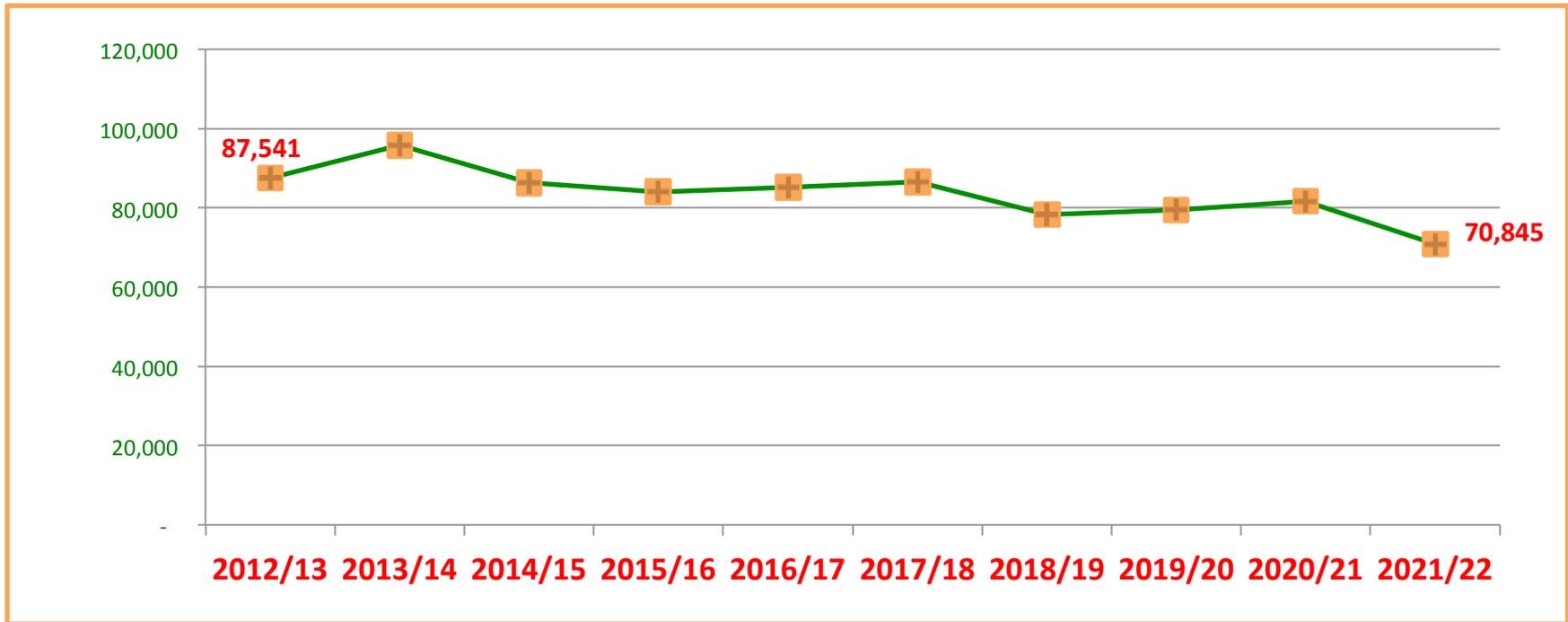
PLEASE don't be fooled! VOTE NAY ON HB 1279 Thank you for your time and attention, Enid Feinberg

DEER HARVESTED BY YEAR*

Sunday Hunting Days & Shorter Safety Zones

Already Added in Maryland Over the Past 10 Years

HAVE FAILED TO INCREASE the TOTAL AMOUNT of DEER KILLED!



In fact, if Sunday Hunting and Shorter Safety Zones are supposed to be so critical for managing deer, then you should have already seen a much greater harvest, not a declining comparative flat line!

This has not happened, because hunters already have more than enough days they aren't even using now. They have more Archery, Muzzleloader, Firearm and just added Primitive Weapon Hunting Days then they did 10 years ago!

HB1279 ONLY Benefits Recreational Hunters who want to hunt on Sundays in our neighborhoods and parks!

Please don't make the mistake of expanding it, when it clearly is not working, Vote NO for HB1279!

*Data from the Maryland Department Of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage's Annual Deer Harvest Reports