

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: #: **HB1279** — Sunday Hunting and Archery Safety Zones Statewide Authorization and Establishment **PLEASE OPPOSE**

Thank you for your service to the State of Maryland.

I am a Baltimore County resident and am very alarmed by the introduction of HB 1279. I believe the below FACTS speak well to the position of many of us in this county who are equestrians.

We are proud that for many years, Baltimore County did not allow Sunday hunting in any form, and we urge you to continue that tradition.

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STOP STATEWIDE SUNDAY HUNTING - 52 WEEKS A YEAR AND THE SAFETY ZONE FROM BEING REDUCED TO JUST 50 YARDS FROM YOUR HOME!

HUNTERS ALREADY HAVE 6 DAYS A WEEK, ALL WE WANT IS ONE DAY, SUNDAY, WITHOUT THE FEAR OF BEING SHOT WITH A BULLET OR RAZOR SHARP ARROW!

IMAGINE LOOKING OUT YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW AND SEEING AN ARMED MAN IN CAMOUFLAGE UP IN A TREE WITH BINOCULARS JUST 50 YARDS FROM YOUR HOME!

At a time when so many people are suffering economic hardship, it is beyond sad that this is what some Delegates think our legislators should be wasting their limited time on. It is shameful especially since Delegates were asked to be thoughtful about the bills they choose to put forward during this pandemic.

SAY NO TO REDUCING THE SAFETY ZONES AND YEAR ROUND SUNDAY HUNTING FAST FACTS!

FACT: Our Delegates and Senators we elected will lose their authority to decide about Sunday hunting or Safety Zones in our own counties. We elected them, not DNR! Since some counties have successfully defeated Sunday Hunting and Safety Zone Reductions year after year, this is an **underhanded** way to circumvent the voting power of Maryland citizens!

FACT: 98% of Maryland residents are not hunters. This is for less than 2% of all Marylanders and it is not fair or right.

FACT: This bill would allow state-wide, year round, Sunday hunting in every county in the state on private as well as public land, it will allow hunting on all 52 Sundays of the year by repealing every subsection of existing bill. Since there is always something in season throughout the year, this means that hunting could now be allowed 365 days of the year.

FACT: When asked in a Gonzales Poll, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure, (i.e.: your home, garage, barn, etc.) and about

Sunday Hunting. Marylanders overwhelmingly throughout the state opposed reducing the safety zone and they do not want Sunday Hunting!

FACT: Children have been confined enough during the pandemic and now they back in school Monday to Friday. They will lose the freedom of playing safely outside in the woods on Sundays all year long too!

FACT: Crossbow speeds are measured in feet-per-second (FPS). When an archery crossbow is said to shoot at 450 FPS, that means the arrow will travel 450 feet or 150 yards in the span of just one second. Here are just a few Crossbows and their FSP's: Scorpyd Aculeus 460 fps, TenPoint Nitro X 440 fps, Ravin R20 430 fps, Barnett Predator 430 fps. So 50 or even 100 yards is just not safe!

FACT: Razor Sharp Arrows do not stop at private property lines, endangering you on your own property and on public lands, which adjoin private properties! Every year hunters accidentally shoot bullets and arrows killing innocent people and their pets.

FACT: Farmers can kill deer all year long including all Sundays, 365 days a year under a Deer Management Permit. So these bills are just a backdoor way of taking away our Sundays for recreational sport hunting.

FACT: This bill only benefits hunters for their convenience, not to effectively manage the deer population since counties who already added Sunday hunting and reduced safety zones have failed to result in any significant reduction of deer.

FACT: For every \$1.00 hunters generate, Wildlife watchers generate \$3.00 for the economy.

FACT: Our Delegates and Senators we elected are supposed to protect us, not cater to the hunting industry!