

Written Testimony on SB0983 from Craig Cockrell

I have enjoyed the outdoors in Maryland since before I can remember. I began fishing when I was 10 years old and grew to love and appreciate all the things this great state has to offer. When I turned 14 my father bought me a shotgun and that jump started my passion for hunting. Each fall and winter when I was not in school or at basketball I was out hunting. This bill will negatively impact hunting in the state of Maryland in a big way.

Lead ammunition is the cheapest ammunition available on the market today to hunt with. Ensuring affordable ammunition will allow for people from diverse economic backgrounds to get out and enjoy the sport of hunting and provide food for their families. I view this law as discriminatory to low-income households that may not be able to afford ammunition to enjoy the outdoors. For such a progressive state this seems like a step in the wrong direction on being diverse and inclusive. On a personal basis, my son and I enjoy the opening day of dove season each year in Maryland. Last year we had our best hunt and probably shot over 250 shells between the two of us. We joked at all the missing and made memories that will last a lifetime. Those boxes of shotgun shells we approximately \$8.00 a box. With this new legislation it would force my son and I to buy ammunition that is \$30 to \$50 a box. Doing the math you can see that for my son and I this hunt could come to an end. He is 12 and there is nothing we love more than making memories outside together.

Shouldn't this committee and the Department of Natural Resources be encouraging residents to get outside and enjoy the outdoors? I would also like to know what the basis is for this regulation. I have not seen any data presented by the representatives that shows why this ban is beneficial. I also would offer to wager neither of the representatives responsible for these ridiculous bills have ever hunted. I hope the Department of Natural Resources steps up to denounce this infringement on the hunting in Maryland.