



# Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

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February 20, 2024

Honorable Members of the  
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: HB-0935 Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act  
OPPOSE**

Dear Honorable Delegates:

I represent the Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (WCFSC) which is comprised of eighteen hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations with nearly six thousand individual members in Washington County. As President of the Federation, I work together with the leadership of a much wider Coalition of Western Maryland Sportsmen's Clubs for the benefit of not only Washington County Sportsmen, but also for the five most western counties of Maryland.

I, as a private citizen of this state and as the representative of the Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. **strongly urge you to oppose HB-0935, Titled: Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**

Over the past decade, and more and more increasingly, there has been legislation proposed in our State Legislature that, in one form or fashion, is solely designed discourage sportsmen and women from participating in any firearms related activity, be it hunting, trap and skeet shooting or other shooting competitions. House Bill **0935** is another example of this never-ending endeavor. The firearms sportsmen and women of this state are already carrying the burden of a 10% federal excise tax on all handguns, an 11% federal excise tax on rifles, shotguns and ammunition and a state sales tax of 6% on all the above.

The passage of this bill will bring an additional back-breaking 11% state issued excise tax on all firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition. Proponents of this bill try to convince our sportsmen and women that businesses will pay the tax, not the consumer. We all know that is

a ridiculous argument. The Fiscal and Policy Note acknowledges that the more than 22 million dollars of taxes levied on the sportsmen's firearms, accessories, and ammunition in the first year alone will be paid by the sportsmen themselves thru higher consumer prices. It also seems a bit unfair that that our sports community has been targeted to financially support The Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund, the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and others. Perhaps an additional tax on liquor or gasoline or gambling would achieve funding for these worthy causes by spreading the financial burden along a much wider consumer base.

**So together with the sportsmen and sportswomen of Washington County Maryland, I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 0935. (just another tax)**

Respectfully,

*Joe Winter*

Joe Winter  
President, WCFSC

"Sportsmen & Conservationists, working together..."