



Quality Deer Management Association
Maryland State Chapter



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1 February, 2011
Environmental Matters Committee
Room 250, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

Dear Environmental Matters Committee Members,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) we are writing to support SB 45 which would expand Sunday hunting to private property in Maryland's Counties. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 50,000 members, and nearly 2,000 QDMA members within Maryland, including more than 3,000 of the nation's leading wildlife and forestry professionals. As such, QDMA is widely regarded as the most respected whitetail organization in the U.S.

The QDMA advocates expanded Sunday hunting in Maryland for the following reasons:

- **Sunday hunting could provide additional recreational opportunity for Maryland hunters**
- **Sunday hunting could provide additional opportunity for hunters to help the Maryland DNR manage deer and other wildlife populations**
- **Sunday hunting could increase hunter participation and recruitment rates**
- **Sunday hunting could help rural economies**

Hunters play an important role in Maryland's societal and economic well being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations and provide more than \$300 million annually to Maryland's economy. Hunters are necessary to control the state's wildlife populations, over the past eight years hunters have harvested over 26,000 deer on Sundays where permitted and they are a benefit to Maryland's citizenry. Hunters help reduce habitat damage and deer-human conflicts such as deer-vehicle collisions and the incidence of Lyme disease. Unfortunately, hunter numbers are declining as Maryland only recruits 89 hunters for every 100 it loses. One suggested reason for this decline is the lack of available time for hunting.

The opportunity for Sunday hunting in Maryland could provide additional time for hunting and help slow this negative trend. Many hunters are limited in their hunting activity to weekends due to long work weeks and conflicts with other social activities. Essentially, the addition of Sunday hunting would effectively double the number of available days for this segment of the hunting population. Similarly, it would provide ample opportunity for youth to hunt without conflicting with school or team sports (which typically occur on Saturdays), and therefore help hunter recruitment rates. For these reasons the QDMA supports SB 45. Thank you for your time and commitment to Maryland's natural resources.

Respectfully,

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