



THE MARYLAND STATE CHAPTER OF THE QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

THE FUTURE OF DEER HUNTING

January 31, 2011

Dear Delegates and Cecil County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to support expanding Sunday Hunting to private property in Cecil County. 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; of which nearly 2,000 are Marylanders, 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, 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 Cecil County 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 Sunday Hunting throughout the state. Thank you for your time and commitment to Maryland's natural resources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. W. Grimes'.

E. W. Grimes

Director of the Maryland State Chapter QDMA