



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 15, 2019

Mr. Paul A. Peditto
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Heritage Service
580 Taylor Avenue, E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Peditto:

We are writing to you to request that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources reinstate the "Suburban Archery Hunting Corridor" and remove the 15-deer bag limit that now constrains hunters.

Several of us wrote to you last year expressing our opposition to the bag limit change and, as you are aware, Montgomery County is experiencing the effects of a serious overpopulation of deer. Deer collisions continue to cost our residents thousands of dollars in property damage and also pose health and safety risks. Our agricultural community sustains crop losses each year because of deer foraging their fields. Homeowners are frustrated by the deer ruining their landscaping. We are also well aware of the debilitating effects of Lyme Disease caused by the deer tick. The number of reported cases of Lyme disease continues to grow with the growing population of deer in our area.

Our specific concerns pertain to the current 15 deer bag limits for bow hunters. We support the reestablishment of the Suburban Deer Archery Zone (Zone) and an unlimited bag limit for antlerless deer in the Zone. Suburban counties such as Montgomery County should not be subject to the 15 deer bag limit which is designed to increase deer herds in Maryland's rural counties. We also support an increase in the antlered deer bag limit from the current 2 deer limit to 6 antlered deer in the Zone.

Every effort should be made to humanely reduce the deer population in Maryland. We believe that the current bag limits harm the effectiveness of the bow hunters in suburban counties, which runs counter to our shared goal of controlling the deer population in Maryland.

In 2017, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to allow Sunday hunting in Montgomery County during specific hours. In 2018, the Assembly also passed legislation to expand bow hunting. The DNR's current policy undermines the purpose of these bills. We respectfully request that the DNR reconsider their bag limit policy and permit the bow hunters to effectively assist with controlling our deer population.

Sincerely,

Senator Brian Feldman
Senator Susan C. Lee
Delegate Kathleen Dumais
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
Delegate Ariana Kelly
Delegate Marc Korman
Delegate Sara N. Love
Delegate Lily Qi