



## **A Message From the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

### **Greetings and Welcome Maryland Hunters:**

It is a pleasure to be back among my friends and colleagues at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and to again have the honor of serving Maryland's hunters and trappers.

Hunting provides a chance for rejuvenation. While melting into some of the most beautiful places gracing Maryland's and the Nation's landscapes, we can enjoy the experience with all our senses. Perhaps no other outdoor experience engenders such a sense of place – the hunter's sense of place in the natural world, and man's sense of place in the ecosystem.

This time-honored form of recreation ranks high on the affordability scale with ever-increasing public hunting opportunities and improvements to public hunting access -- including access for those with physical challenges. In fact, our hunting opportunities and experiences are held in such high regard, that over 30,000 hunters from other states choose to hunt in Maryland each year.

Hunters and trappers contribute to successful wildlife management in many ways – helping to control wildlife populations, funding habitat conservation and management, and perhaps most importantly, instilling a natural resources stewardship ethic in others. These contributions are immensely helpful to DNR, as we work to ensure the viability and ecological integrity of Maryland's wildlife, promote sustainable and compatible uses of these resources, and proactively address emerging threats such as chronic wasting disease, and H5N1 avian influenza. Finally, we can all be proud as hunters and conservationists that our collective efforts return nearly \$600 million annually to the State's economy.

DNR's wildlife professionals have a strong history of dedication to our living resources, and we are proud to serve and work with Maryland's hunters and trappers. We wish you many safe and happy experiences during the 2007-2008 hunting seasons.

Sincerely,

John R. Griffin  
Secretary