



Lead Industries Association, Inc.

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March 14, 1973

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO RESTRICT USE OF LEAD SHOT

TO: THE MEMBERS OF LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

An apparent carefully coordinated program to ban lead shot for waterfowl hunting has been proposed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Interior. The schedule calls for: 1. Enactment of a regulation by Maryland DNR (does not require legislative action) banning use of lead shot by the 1973-74 hunting season. 2. After this BSP&W would enact the same ban for one of the Eastern flyways, effective with 1974-75 season. 3. One year later, effective with 1975-76 season, BSP&W would ban lead in all Federal areas, nationwide. However, some hitches have developed.

At the official public hearing in Annapolis on February 14, the speakers, including LIA, were overwhelmingly against enactment. Of major interest were protests by prominent members of the Maryland legislature. At the same time a bill was introduced by the Maryland Speaker of The House which would forbid enactment of the ban by the Department of Natural Resources. All of this opposition centered around three themes: 1. Insufficient evidence of waterfowl deaths due to lead shot. 2. Steel shot damage to guns and supply question. 3. Maryland should not be the guinea-pig.

In spite of this significant opposition, Maryland enacted the regulation March 9. However, effective date of ban was postponed to 1974-75 season ("due to uncertainty of steel shot supply"). The House bill aimed at rescinding the regulation has been reported favorably out of Committee in Maryland, and now awaits floor action.

Our Committee on Lead Shot remains on active status, and will continue vigilance and pertinent action.

Sincerely,

Connell A. Baker, Jr.
CONNEL A. BAKER, JR.

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