



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 19, 2020

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB478 - Maryland Green Purchasing Committee - Food Procurement - Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 478. This bill requires the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee, in consultation with the Department of the Environment and the Department of General Services, to develop a way to calculate the amount of Greenhouse Gas emissions food emits in its lifecycle. Then they are to establish best practices for state government procurement to reduce the volume of GHG-intensive foods purchased to the maximum extent practicable as a percentage of gross food purchases. The Maryland Green Purchasing Committee is: the Secretary of General Services, the Secretary of Budget and Management, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of the Environment, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, the Secretary of Information Technology, the Secretary of Education, the State Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee.

There is no direction in this bill on how food products will be measured and what impacts this will have on Maryland farmers, especially livestock and poultry producers. In addition, the Department of Agriculture is not on the committee to give an ag perspective. Added this year, was a part to include "grown in healthy soils and reducing food waste."

In July 2019, a summer study committee released a draft list of carbon intensive foods and they were: beef, lamb & goat meat, butter, shellfish, cheese, pork, chicken, cream, fish, eggs, rice and milk. During the summer study, there was no interest in the group drafting the list on where the foods were grown, only on the food's life cycle emissions.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 478

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396