



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 11, 2020

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB 841 - Water Pollution Control - Discharge Permits - Industrial Poultry Operations**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 841. This bill prohibits the Department of the Environment from issuing discharge permits to a person for a new industrial poultry operation or for the purpose of extending or expanding an existing industrial poultry operation of over 300,000 poultry a year on or before September 30, 2020.

This bill would eliminate the commercial poultry industry in Maryland. The typical poultry house today grows between 30,000 and 40,000 birds per flock and there are at least 5 flocks grown a year, totaling more than 150,000 birds per year in each house. This bill would eliminate operations of 2 houses or more. The way the bill is drafted, this would also prevent MDE from issuing a new permit when the existing poultry operation's 5-year permit expires. Based on this restriction, this would eliminate commercial poultry operations in Maryland over the next 5 years.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- Regulations imposed on agriculture shall be based on economically sound and scientifically proven research to ensure that agriculture, including livestock and poultry industries, remains viable and continues to be a strong economic base for Maryland.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 841

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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