



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 5, 2020

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 1240 - Motor Vehicles - Registration - Class E (Truck) "Dump Service Registration" Vehicles**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1240, legislation that would create a 70,000 pound "dump service registration" classification within the Class E Farm Truck section of the law. This dump service registration already exists in commercial truck section of the law, but not in the Farm Truck section - Section 13-921 of the Transportation Article. This bill would just add the dump service registration to Section 13-921 and price it at \$5.75 per 1,000 pounds.

Many farms today use these 4-axle dump trucks to haul grain, silage and other crops from the field to either the farm or directly to the mills. Allowing these dump trucks to be classified as a farm truck and setting the registration fee to be similar to farm trucks of a similar weight class helps keep the cost of production and transportation down. With margins being razor thin in the agriculture commodity market, any assistance with reducing the cost of producing those commodities improves the farmer's bottom line.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

We support making weight limits for farm tag vehicles more equitable with those for commercial vehicles. We further support the creation of a Farm Dump Truck class tag for the transportation of farm commodities. We recommend that the allowable weight for farm trucks with farm tags be increased from 65,000 lbs to 70,000 lbs.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1240 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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