



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 6, 2020

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB188 – Public Health – Misbranded Food – Meat Products

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB188. This is legislation that would provide clarity in standards of identity of meat by providing that a food is misbranded if it is offered for sale in the State with a label that identifies the product as a meat or meat product but is derived from animal tissue cultured from animal cells outside the animal, plants or insects.

The motive behind this bill is to provide transparency to food labeling and combat consumer confusion. Whether you're purchasing a plant-based product or a meat product, labeling should be clear and distinguish the contents of one package from the other. The beef community has worked for decades to establish beef's strong reputation among consumers, therefore creating a desire for imitation products to closely label and market their products in the same fashion. This bill would give them factual information they need to make their own purchasing decisions confidently.

SB188 would also position Maryland ahead of the game in regards to the labeling and enforcement of cell-based meat, as it stands to hold a position in the marketplace in the near future. It is important that if a product looks identical to meat it is labeled appropriately so consumers know there is a potential composition difference.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB188 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations