

MELONY G. GRIFFITH  
*Legislative District 25*  
Prince George's County

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Budget and Taxation Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 220  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3127 · 410-841-3127  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3127  
Melony.Griffith@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Melony G. Griffith in Support of Senate Bill 942**  
**Agriculture – Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and**  
**Fund - Establishment**  
**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagen, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 942. Providing the tools to encourage and empower Marylanders to produce and choose nutritional foods is a priority. SB 942 addresses this challenge through the creation and implementation of the urban agriculture water and power infrastructure grant fund for urban agricultural producers and qualified nonprofit organizations for the purchase and installation of equipment associated with water supply and irrigation, in addition to electric power access. In turn, this will provide our urban communities with the resources needed to eliminate barriers to accessing urban-grown foods.

**Senate Bill 942 will:**

- **Increase** the viability of urban farming and community gardens to improve access to urban-grown foods.
- **Establish** a grant that provides 87.5% of matching funds to urban agricultural producers and qualified nonprofits.
- **Provide** grants to commercial urban agricultural producers and qualified nonprofit organizations to help purchase and install water meters, water pipes and irrigation hoses, electric meters, and electric lines.
- **Require** annual reporting beginning October 15, 2024 to the Governor, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee on the effectiveness of the funding provided under the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 942, I respectfully request a favorable report.