



March 14, 2021
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
91 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1904

**SB 942- Agriculture - Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program
and Fund - Establishment**
Senator Melony Ghee Griffith
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

The Fair Farms Campaign asks for a favorable report of this bill. Fair Farms is a program of Waterkeepers Chesapeake which works with local farmers that grow sustainably to create policies that would benefit them. We are a campaign with over 150 partners, including farmers, urban and rural, advocates, and business owners.

Water and electric power are two important resources for urban farmers. Unfortunately, there are high barriers to accessing these resources like expensive permit fees and installation costs. This bill will ease the financial burden for many farmers who may not have access to the capital they need. Without water and power, urban farms can not grow healthy food. Without healthy food, urban areas impacted by food apartheid, such as communities in Baltimore City will continue to exist. This bill will help promote urban farming as a viable business model and safeguard the livelihoods of urban farmers.

We respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 942. Thank you to Senator Griffith, her office, and the other stakeholders who drafted this legislation. We hope to work with the Senator on issues related to agriculture and food equity in the future.

Sincerely,

Humon Heidarian
humon@fairfarmsnow.org
Campaign Manager, Fair Farms
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

