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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2023

Delegate Josselyn Pena- Melnyk
Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
HB 606- Public Health - Food Products Containing Insect Flour - Labeling

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Pena- Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **HB 606- Public Health - Food Products Containing Insect Flour - Labeling**

As cricket flour and other insect-based foods become more prevalent, consumers must remain aware of the ingredients they are consuming so they can make educated decisions. To maintain their health and well-being, people must understand what goes into the food products they buy.

What Is Cricket Flour?

Cricket flour is just what it sounds like—it is a powder made from ground-up crickets and other insects. It is becoming increasingly popular as a health supplement and food ingredient due to its high levels of protein, fiber, vitamins, and minerals. It can be used in baking, cooking, or even in smoothies!

This bill simply treats cricket flour in the same manner that we treat imitation crab. It subjects cricket flour to the same labeling requirements that we have set in place for imitation crab.

While there may be many positive benefits to the addition of cricket flour as a sustainable source of protein, it is immensely important that consumers are informed about the ingredients in any food product. For those with allergies or dietary restrictions, this could pose a serious health risk if they unknowingly consume something with an insect-based ingredient.

Please give HB 606 a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Matt Morgan'.

Delegate