



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB589 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission - Funding

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes in **SUPPORT** of **SB589** and requests a **FAVORABLE** Committee report. This Bill supports the transition from tobacco farming with a modest increase in appropriation for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (Council) from the Cigarette Restitution Fund. By existing law, the Council must use funds appropriated from the Cigarette Restitution Fund for the purpose of funding the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

As you are aware, the Council is an integral part of our community, and SMADC, under its purview, plays a pivotal role in supporting local farmers, promoting agricultural education, and fostering sustainable practices. SMADC provides valuable services to Calvert County farmers and citizens including mini-grants, workshops, Maryland Market Money – a funding match up to \$30 per day for citizens purchasing food at farmers markets and farm stands with nutrition assistance benefits programs, along with consumer guides for customers to learn more about local food options.

Your thoughtful consideration of this request is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600 extension 2202 or Economic Development Director Julie Oberg at 410-535-1600 extension 2485.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Earl F. Hance, President

Catherine M. Grasso

Catherine M. Grasso, Vice President

Mark C. Cox Sr.

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Mike Hart

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cc: Calvert County Delegation