



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

**RE:** **Opposition of HB0150 Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program and Diesel Vehicle Emissions Control Program - Fees and Fines**

On behalf of our nearly 9,500 Farm Bureau families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in opposition to HB0150. This bill would establish a recurring fee on each motor vehicle registered in the State that is granted a waiver from, exempted from, or not subject to the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program and on certain diesel vehicles. Requiring the fee to be deposited in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and used to provide incentives to expand electric vehicle ownership and to expand electric vehicle infrastructure.

Maryland farm families are faced with situations where there are multiple vehicles needed to handle the workload of the farm. Many of these farmers turn to diesel vehicles, especially in the larger weigh classes of vehicles. The new fees that are proposed in this bill, although small in amount, have the potential to add up on farm families just covering the needed vehicles for the farm to operate. Farming families face tight margins, and ever-changing market conditions, and the addition of another fee would continue to stress farm family budgets.

The electric vehicle industry has not provided the equivalent replacements for the current gas and diesel vehicles being utilized for daily functions of a farming operation. Introducing a new fee on the current vehicles being utilized by Maryland's farm families to help fund expansion of electric vehicle ownership and infrastructure would not be beneficial.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:** We support a healthy environment, including good air quality, but we are opposed to emission control rules and standards for farm equipment and all on-road vehicles used to transport agriculture commodities to and from the farm that would require the retrofitting of our equipment to meet those standards. We oppose any legislation requiring an annual safety or emission control inspection of motor vehicles.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Respectfully Opposes HB0150**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough at 443-878-4045 with any questions*