



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 24, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of SB240 Department of Agriculture – Maryland Agricultural Commission and Young Farmers

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of SB240 Department of Agriculture – Maryland Agricultural Commission and Young Farmers. This bill will alter the membership of the Maryland Agricultural Commission and establish the Committee of Young Farmers under the Maryland Agricultural Commission.

The Maryland Agricultural Commission is a long-standing advisory body that provides valuable information and insight to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Commission plays an essential role in making proposals for the advancement of Maryland agriculture. While relevant when initially established, the makeup of Maryland Agriculture has changed slightly from the Commission membership outlined in the current language. The updated Commission membership will allow for adequate representation for all aspects of Maryland Agriculture, and the ability to diversify the Commission membership.

Currently there is the Young Farmers Advisory Board in the Department of Agriculture. This bill would modify the Young Farmers Advisory Board and re-establish the board as the Committee on Young Farmers. The new Committee would identify and address the issues relating to young and beginning farmers in the state and make recommendations to the Maryland Agricultural Commission. This change would allow for easier communication on the needs of the next generation of farmers in the state.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB162

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions