



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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March 18, 2025

**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** **Support of SB203 - Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of SB203 Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products. This legislation would create exceptional hauling permits up to 88K lbs. GVW for field loaded farm products.

This legislation provides significant benefits to those transporting milk, poultry, and grain, particularly during peak seasonal demands. These agricultural products are often loaded directly in the field, where access to a scale may be unavailable. The issuance of exceptional hauling permits offers necessary flexibility, ensuring compliance even when precise weight measurements cannot be immediately verified.

By increasing weight limits, the legislation reduces the number of trips each truck must take, leading to a decrease in the total number of trucks on the road. This, in turn, results in lower annual mileage, reduced fuel consumption, and fewer emissions, contributing to both economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. Additionally, fewer trucks on the road can lead to less wear and tear on infrastructure, ultimately benefiting road maintenance efforts.

Moreover, these permits align state weight standards with those of neighboring states, facilitating smoother interstate commerce and reducing logistical barriers for haulers transporting agricultural goods across state lines. By promoting efficiency, sustainability, and regional consistency, this legislation supports both the agricultural and transportation sectors.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB203**

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions