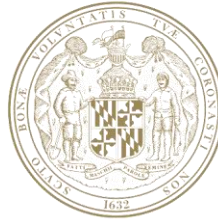


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST  
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER  
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON  
TERRY BAKER  
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER  
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.  
STEVE JOHNSON  
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Chair, Health Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Bagnall and Honorable Members of the Health Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 535 Food Establishments - Cottage Food Businesses - Maximum Annual Revenue.**

As advocates for agriculture and the rural small business community, we support efforts to expand opportunity for small and local food producers. HB 535 will open the favorable regulatory conditions of Cottage Food businesses up to more producers, and give them a greater range for revenue and sales.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 535 and appreciates your favorable report.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Jefferson L. Ghrist in black ink.

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist  
*Co-Chair*

Handwritten signature of Natalie Ziegler in black ink.

Delegate Natalie Ziegler  
*Co-Chair*