



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 20th, 2025

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB175 Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation – Alterations**

On behalf of the nearly 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of HB175 – Income Tax Credit: Venison Donation – Alterations. This bill repeals the cap on the maximum income tax credit an individual may claim for expenses incurred when donating processed venison to qualifying nonprofit organizations.

Deer damage continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing Maryland farmers. In the most recent USDA wildlife damage survey, deer accounted for approximately 77 percent of all reported crop losses statewide. Based on extensive conversations with farmers across Maryland, deer damage is commonly estimated at roughly \$50 per acre. With more than 1.2 million acres of cropland in the state, total annual agricultural losses caused by deer may exceed \$60 million.

By removing the current limitation on the tax credit available for venison donations, HB175 meaningfully expands opportunities for hunters to contribute to Maryland's anti-hunger efforts. Making the donation process more accessible and financially feasible for hunters will encourage additional deer harvests and increase the volume of donated venison available for families in need.

More importantly for our members, this bill provides an incentive that can help reduce excessive deer populations over time, offering a practical tool to address the worsening deer damage crisis affecting Maryland farms.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau urges a favorable report on HB175.

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

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions