



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 28, 2020

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 336 - Renewable Energy Development and Siting (REDS) – Evaluations and Tax and Fee Exemptions**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 336, legislation that would allow the Maryland Department of the Environment to waive the fees and requirements for remediation of brownfields, landfills and other contaminated properties if clean or renewable electrical generation sites are being created as long as they are not causing a disturbance to the soil that could cause a negative environmental impact.

Opening up opportunities to use this less desirable land to put commercial solar facilities on, lessens the need to site these facilities out in prime and productive farmland. We need to make sure the less desirable lands are used before consuming our food producing lands. Residential growth already takes significant farmland each year. Maryland can't afford to add commercial solar to the list of takers of our limited farmland we have left.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:** We encourage that brownfields, and urban areas be utilized to assist with the clean energy mandate in lieu of prime and productive farmland.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 336 & ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

*For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396*