



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 18, 2020

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB1006 - Real Estate Brokers - Exemption for Auctioneers - Repeal**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 1006. This bill repeals an exemption from the Maryland Real Estate Brokers Act that applies to licensed auctioneers while selling real estate at public auction, thereby making auctioneers subject to licensing and regulation under the Act.

This bill would require auctioneers become realtors and brokers in order to continue to sell property even though property sales are a very small portion of their daily business. The exemption was put in place years ago to make sure farmers and rural property owners had options when selling their estates and land. Removing the option of including the house and/or property in an estate auction because the auctioneer isn't a real estate broker hurts the ability of the farmer or landowner to move swiftly on liquidating assets that in some cases are required due to tax issues or bankruptcy. This bill seems to be a means in removing the competition from real estate brokers when it comes to selling property in Maryland.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 1006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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