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TESTIMONY FOR THE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

CHAIR DEREK DAVIS VICE CHAIR KATHLEEN DUMAIS

HOUSE BILL 1123: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT- MARYLAND WAGE AND HOUR LAW – AGRICULTURAL STANDS

MARCH 3, 2020

Good Afternoon Chairman Davis and Vice Chair Dumais. I am here today asking for a favorable report on HB1123 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Wage and Hour Law – Agricultural Stands. This is a very simple bill which fixes an oversight in the original agricultural exemption in the minimum wage bill.

The bill will clarify that those employed at agricultural stands or markets are to be exempt from the bill, which was the intent of the original exemption, but was overlooked. The bill came out of a bipartisan Senate workgroup which acknowledged the need for the exemption after feedback from numerous rural Chambers of Commerce and farm bureaus.

Additionally, we have included an amendment with the bill that will define an agricultural stand is, further narrowing the extent of the bill. Thank you for your time, and again I urge a favorable report on HB 1123.