



February 10, 2020

Hon. Chairman, Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (EHEA)
Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB351
Farmer's Market Integrity Act
Hearing Date: February 11, 2020
Position: Oppose

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

Civic Works is a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization with a mission of strengthening Baltimore's communities through education, skills development, and community service. One of the programs we operate is Real Food Farm, an urban farm in Baltimore City, where we teach young adults how to farm, provide nutrition, farming, and outdoor education for youth, and make food more accessible for low-income families through our CSA and Mobile Farmers Market.

Sprouts Farmers Market has partnered with Civic Works for the past two years to support our youth education and food access programming. Their partnership this year is helping us make fresh fruits and vegetables easier to access for 400 families living in healthy food priority areas (formerly called "food deserts"), providing 1,000 youth with farm-based field trips and educational experiences, and teaching 15 young adults how to grow and harvest food.

In Baltimore, 23.5% of all residents experience difficulty accessing and affording healthy food, with children and communities of color disproportionately affected. We've seen positive impact when growers, sellers, and communities work together in ensuring that families who want healthy food are able to find it. Stores like Sprouts are playing an important role in community-based efforts to create local food systems that work better for low-income families.

We request that the committee make an unfavorable report on SB351.

Sincerely,

Kristen Wommack
Civic Works, Inc.