



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

SB 351

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

*Office of Marketing  
Animal Industries and Consumer Services*

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary

Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

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February 12, 2020

Senator Jason Gallion  
414 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Gallion:

I am writing to follow up on our discussion about the Maryland Department of Agriculture reviewing the management of farmers' market promotions in Maryland.

MDA will reconvene an advisory group established under Agricultural Article subsection 10-170 to gain advice from farmers, food distributors, retail stores, food service businesses and restaurants. The goal of the advisory group will be to review the State's "locally-grown" advertising regulations, the Maryland's Best program and definition of "Farmers' Market."

Upon completion of the review, MDA will share with you its recommended changes to relevant laws and regulations. We are committed to improving access to locally-produced food for Maryland consumers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or comments.

Respectfully,

Steven A. Connelly

Assistant Secretary

Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Cc: Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of Agriculture  
Mark Powell, Chief of Marketing  
Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs