



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 12, 2020

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB100 – Maryland Agricultural Commission – Hemp Industry Member

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB100. This is legislation that would increase the number of members on the Maryland Agricultural Commission by adding a member to represent one of the fastest growing agricultural enterprises in Maryland – the Hemp Industry.

The Maryland Agricultural Commission is appointed by the Governor and serves as an advisory body to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Members on the Commission are tasked to formulate and make proposals for the advancement of Maryland agriculture.

This is very timely legislation because the federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, or better known as the 2018 Farm Bill, altered certain federal authority relating to the production and marketing of hemp and removes hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act. This caused a huge increase in the number of farmers interested in growing hemp in Maryland.

The ability to grow hemp does not come without its challenges however, and as such it would be beneficial to have a voice on the Maryland Agricultural Commission to represent that industry.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB100 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations