



Plow and Stars Farm
14010 Montevideo Road
Poolesville, MD 20837

House Bill 896 - Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program – Establishment

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 26, 2020

SUPPORT

House Bill 896 charges the Maryland Department of the Environment with creating a statewide Green Business Certification Program that enhances the State's Green Registry.

Our farm, Plow and Stars Farm, became a GBC business in 2019 after obtaining Certified Naturally Grown status. We felt that GBC provided a strong incentive to our business to obtain this national certification and were very happy with the results. We had to become part of a peer-reviewed national certification examining all of our records and production methods and certifying our produce as CNG approved. This was an overwhelmingly positive and supportive process overall.

The GBC program gave our farm the opportunity to stand out as a local business with a certified commitment to environmental sustainability. We felt that this assisted us with marketing and explaining our production methods to potential customers. We also very much enjoyed being part of the CNG and GBC business communities, which were of great help in networking and marketing for our farm.

For the aforementioned reasons, Plow and Stars Farm supports House Bill 896 and respectfully urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Amanda Cather and Mark Walter, owners
Plow and Stars Farm