



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 10, 2020

To: House Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 1488 - Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Fund - Establishment**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1488, legislation that establishes the office for the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), as well as the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Fund through the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO). This bill would encourage units that procure food within the state to try and meet a 20% total dollar value goal of their contracts being made with certified local farm enterprises.

Sponsors of this bill worked closely with Maryland Farm Bureau, MDA, MARBIDCO, and other stakeholders during the interim to make this bill beneficial for farmers in Maryland.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We encourage state and local agencies and institutions to purchase all types of Maryland agricultural commodities and products.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1488 ALONG WITH THE SPONSOR AMENDMENTS

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

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396