



# Maryland Vegetable Growers Association

March 10, 2020

HB 1488 – Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Fund - Establishment

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

MVGA Position - **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association would like express support for House Bill 1488 – Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Fund – Establishment sponsored by Delegate Charkoudian.

A strong local food system is vital to Maryland’s economy. This direct economic impact will help support Maryland farmers by opening doors to create a more reliable and consistent market for fruits and vegetables produced within our State. With stronger markets for local grown fruits and vegetables, this bill will help support Maryland farmers who often struggle to compete on an uneven playing field with large scale producers from outside of our State.

This support of local farmers will also help preserve farmland throughout the state of Maryland by making it more economically viable for Maryland farmers to continue to produce healthy and sustainable, high quality fruits and vegetables for the residents of our local communities.

For these reasons The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association supports HB 1488 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report from this committee.

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