

March 10, 2020


Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Doug Adams. I am an urban farmer, and founder of New Brooklyn Farms – a 3 year-old ¼ acre (soon expanding to 3.5 acre) urban farm in Mt. Rainier, MD. I am writing to express my full-fledged support of House Bill 1488, with sponsor amendments, sponsored by Delegate Charkoudian, which establishes the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Fund.

As a young 1st generation farmer and member of the Fair Farms Farmer Advisory Council, I became aware of the Maryland Food for Maryland Institutions Study Group established in 2019 whose goal has been to increase the amount of locally grown food procured by Maryland institutions, providing more market opportunities for local farming enterprises like myself.

HB 1488's proposal to facilitate business rapport between local farms who meet certain environmental standards & state institutions and fund the creation of mobile, refrigerated trailers, and value-added food processing facilities to ease delivery of local produce to state institution customers would stimulate critical revenue growth to independent farm businesses like myself and empower the local farming economy holistically. The economic success of the local farming community collectively improves, public health, food access, and climate change control efforts.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Adams", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug Adams