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February 25, 2020

To: House Way & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

<u>Re: Support of HB1056 - Gaming - Sports Wagering – Implementation</u></u>

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1056, legislation that provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County. Improving the tracks allows for more opportunities for our equine owners to race in Maryland.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We support the recognition of equine as part of the agricultural industry and not as companion animals. Riding lessons, boarding or training given on a farm, and pleasure horses should be considered a part of the normal agriculture practices. We support measures to improve the Maryland Bred Program within the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Industry.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1056 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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