



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 3, 2020

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB1362 - Harford County - Transfer Tax - Distribution of Proceeds**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 1362. This bill alters the distribution of Harford County transfer tax revenues so that revenues are distributed in a manner determined by the Harford County Council. Under current law, 50% of transfer tax revenues are dedicated to the county's agricultural land preservation program and 50% are dedicated to fund school construction projects.

If passed, this would allow the county council to be able to reallocate the Ag preservation program funds to pay for the county's portion of the Blueprint for Excellence in Education. Even though this is a county bill, this would set a precedent that could eliminate the funding for preserving farmland around the state.

**MFB Policy:** We oppose transfer and/or use of funds set aside for agricultural land preservation for anything other than the preservation of farmland. We oppose any attempt to cap all transfer tax funds used for agricultural land preservation programs.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 1362**

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*