



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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January 26, 2021

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB 11 - Sales and Use Tax - Agricultural Purpose Exemption - Seedlings and Fruit Trees

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 11, legislation that expands an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of items for an agricultural purpose to include the sale of seedlings and fruit trees.

Maryland Farmers rely on this exemption to keep cost of production down and help them remain viable and competitive on a local, national and international level. Orchards are needed to meet the demand for more locally grown food. Many schools look to orchards to provide local apples and fresh fruit to the students of Maryland. Including seedlings and fruit trees to the list of agricultural products that are exempt would help small farms to diversify their operations to add this crop.

During the research on this topic, it was found the fruit producing vines are not exempt either. **Therefore, we offer an amendment to also add “fruit producing vines” to this bill.**

MDFB Policy: We support the continued exemption of agricultural items and related services from the state sales tax.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 11 WITH AMENDMENT.

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