



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 25, 2021

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support HB 7 - Venison Donation Expenses – Income Tax Credit and Grant Program**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 7, legislation that was amended in the House that alters the existing venison donation income tax credit by extending eligibility to certain donations made to the Montgomery County Deer Donation Program. The bill also establishes, beginning in fiscal 2023, a Venison Donation Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Opening more opportunities for hunters to harvest over-populations of deer in the state will assist with curbing the ever-increasing crop loss due to deer damage. Per the 2011 Maryland Ag Statistics survey, deer accounted for \$7.7 million in crop losses in Maryland annually. This damage impact has significantly increased over the last 10 years to nearly \$50 million annually.

**MDFB Policy:** We support a state tax credit for each deer donated to a food bank or other food donation non-profit under a crop damage permit.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 7**

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*