



To: **The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair**
Honorable Members
Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: **SB 769**
Position: **SUPPORT / FAVORABLE**
Date: **February 22, 2021**

Chairman Pinsky:

My name is Josh Wilson and I am the Executive Director of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, a venison donation ministry founded by my father in the fall of 1997.

I would like you to know that Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry SUPPORTS the passage of Senate Bill 769 to increase the Maryland income tax credit for venison donation.

For 24 years now Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry has provided the hunters and landowners of Maryland with the opportunity to donate deer to a network of participating butcher shops. Our organization raises financial support to pay for the processing and packaging of these deer into meat for distribution free of charge to food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and ministries. *Since 1997 we have successfully provided over 9.8 million servings of nutritious meat to the less fortunate of Maryland from deer donated by hunters and landowners.*

In a typical year the cost to pay the meat processing bills for the deer available for donation by hunters and landowners across Maryland exceeds the financial support our organization receives. Many butcher shops stop accepting donated deer in the latter portion of the hunting season, thereby reducing the amount of meat that is provided to the needy of Maryland through our partnering hunger relief agencies and programs. In addition, the average cost to have a deer processed across the state for our ministry and for individuals has risen steadily over the years.

For these reasons, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry SUPPORTS the passage of Senate Bill 769 to increase the tax credit funding available for the offset of meat processing costs incurred by individuals who donate their deer for hunger relief after our funding is exhausted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua A. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joshua A. Wilson
Executive Director
Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry