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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 536 – Montgomery County – Stormwater Charges – Organization  
Offering Agricultural Exhibitions**

February 24, 2021

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Article 4-204 (d) of the Environment Code, allows the governing bodies of a county or an municipality to adopt a system of charges to fund the implementation of stormwater management programs. Also under this Article is a section (e) that speaks to *System of Charges – Montgomery County*. Under this section it exempts veteran's organizations and organized volunteer fire departments from charges.

Senate Bill 536 with amendments will add a section (F) to Article 4-204 that will state "A MUNICIPALITY LOCATED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAY NOT IMPOSE A CHARGE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION ON AN ORGANIZATION THAT OFFERS AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AND IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE."

Agricultural land and in our state, and especially in Montgomery County has been lost at alarming rates over the years. We need to protect our open spaces and especially those spaces that help our residents connect to our state's farming history and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 536 with amendments.