



CHAIR:
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER:
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: Senate Bill 616 - Baltimore City – Soil Conservation District – Authority to Establish
Position: *Support*

Chairman Pinsky & Committee Members,

I would like to express my **support** of Senate Bill 616. Improving the health, education, environment, and economic development of our City is imperative as we work to become more sustainable in the midst of climate change as well as create community around urban agriculture.

Urban agricultural development is vast in its functions. They include cultivating fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers; beekeeping, composting, and agricultural education; residential, commercial, and industrial zones; rooftop farming and controlled environmental agriculture. Having a soil conservation district will afford our farmers the technical services and resources needed to be successful without the hassles of hiring your own engineers and figuring out the complexities alone.

This opportunity is great for outreach and educational efforts. This will afford our communities new knowledge on farm-to-table, workshops on how to cultivate foods, herbs, and flowers, as well as training opportunities for urban farmers. This soil conservation district would bring our communities closer while becoming more environmentally conscious and taking direct action to curb the looming impacts of climate change. This would empower our constituents to be change makers in establishing a greener future.

There are 24 soil conservation districts across the State of Maryland covering 23 counties, and it is time for Baltimore City to follow suit.

As Baltimore City continues to make meaningful steps towards becoming more environmentally conscious, we must take action in lifting up our urban farmers. I encourage a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle McCray".

Danielle McCray
Baltimore City Councilwoman - 2nd District