



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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January 14, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB 344 - Agriculture - Cost-Sharing Program - State Cost-Sharing Funds

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 344, legislation that increases the amount of State funding that projects, that are being considered for State cost-sharing, are eligible to receive under the Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS). It changes the amount from up to 87.5% of eligible costs to up to 100% of eligible costs.

By increasing the amount of funding MDA can provide to MACS eligible projects, smaller farming operations that want to participate in the program, but don't have the extra funds, can. The projects that are funded through this program are built to NRCS standards and many times the added costs just make the overall project too expensive for a farm to participate even if it is only 12.5% that they must cover. This bill would address that issue.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 344 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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