



Calvert County Farm Bureau  
1865 Horsmon Farm Lane  
Saint Leonard, MD 20685

April 2, 2021

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the committee,

The Calvert County Farm Bureau is writing in support of **HB801 Calvert County – Public Safety – Buildings Used for Agritourism**, sponsored by Delegate Jerry Clark. We believe this bill will further support Calvert County farms engaged in agritourism activities. Several other counties have already been added to the list of counties where an existing agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit under certain circumstances.

This legislation will help farms offer new opportunities for the public to engage in agriculture and help enable new revenue streams for some farms that would like to take advantage of agritourism activities.

We feel confident that the track record in the counties that already have adopted similar legislation demonstrates that public safety is still maintained while exempting farms from some of the more rigid requirements that would be cost prohibitive or above and beyond necessary standards for agritourism activities.

We appreciate Delegate Clark's introduction of this bill and would appreciate favorable consideration by the committee to allow Calvert County farmers the same standards as our neighboring counties and counties across the states.

Sincerely,

Joe-Sam Swann  
President, Calvert County Farm Bureau