



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Senate Bill 723 – Maryland Food System Resiliency Council – Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on Senate Bill (SB) 723– Maryland Food System Resiliency Council.

SB 723 establishes the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council and requires the Secretary of Health or the Secretary’s designee to be a member of the Council. Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, MDH unfortunately does not have the personnel resources to participate if this bill is passed. Many of MDH’s current employees have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session or that MDH joins the Council in 2023. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov or Director of Governmental Affairs, Heather Shek, at heather.shek@maryland.gov or the same number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary for Health Policy