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March 31, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 92 - Procurement - Invasive Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 92, legislation that prohibits state agencies from purchasing invasive plants for public projects.

Invasive weeds are a major issue within the farming community. By nature, these weeds invade farm fields from nearby areas (in many cases, from public lands). So, controlling invasive weeds away from the farm, reduces the amount of crop protectants farmers need to maintain a clean and healthy crop. For these reasons, MDFB is in support of the invasive plants section of this bill.

MDFB Policy: We insist that local, county, state, federal governments, and public utilities control invasive species and abide by the noxious weed control laws on lands owned or controlled by them.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 92

Colby Ferguson

Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396