



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

January 20, 2021

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 249 - Agriculture - License to Produce Hemp - Limitation**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 249. This bill would prohibit the ability for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to grant a license to produce hemp if the land is located within 25 feet of a property or properties with three or more individual residences, unless the person agrees to produce hemp in an indoor facility that exhausts its fumes to the outside with approved purifying apparatuses to adequately reduce all odors. This restriction would be for both the hemp pilot program and the regular farm program that was approved in the 2018 Farm Bill.

## **Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:**

- We strongly support responsible and workable actions designed to permit and protect the privilege and rights of farmers, commercial fishermen, and aquaculturalists, to produce **without undue or unreasonable restrictions, regulations, or legislation.**
- We support the right of Maryland farmers to grow hemp as an agricultural crop.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 249**

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*