



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

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill 831– Maryland Food System Resiliency Council – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 831– Maryland Food System Resiliency Council.

HB 831 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](mailto:Webster.Ye@maryland.gov) or Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs, Heather Shek, at [Heather.Shek@maryland.gov](mailto:Heather.Shek@maryland.gov) or the same number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Webster Ye".

Webster Ye  
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy