



Family Learning Solutions, Inc.
www.flinc.org * @foodgrownhome
Non-Profit Organization

HB 831 - SUPPORT
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HB 831 SUPPORT
Maryland Food System Resiliency Council
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 17th, 2021

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Family Learning Solutions, Inc. coordinates food rescue and our newest initiative, FOOD GROWN HOME (@foodgrownhome) to inform and teach families how to grow nutritious food. We are in support of HB 831 to create a Maryland Food System Resiliency Council. Family Learning Solutions values career development opportunities and Food Grown Home informs children and families on the innovative employment pathways created through indoor organic vertical farming.

A Maryland Food System Resiliency Council will facilitate solutions to many components of the food insecurity crisis facing our communities. A Maryland Food System Resiliency Council will allow alternative career development and employment pathways education to reach the thousands of unemployed Maryland residents. Indoor vertical farming with organic, nutrient dense foods needs to be a piece of the massive agriculture and food industry and accessible within the State of Maryland.

Currently, we have over 200 children (1st grade-High School), college and individual households involved in growing their own food indoors. Many of these individuals are struggling with food insecurity. The Food Grown Home project works to decrease food insecurity and increase

employment pathways to food insecure households. Thousands of jobs have been lost forever during this pandemic. The food recovery community is struggling to keep up with the need. A Maryland Food System Resiliency Council can make it possible to bring all of the groups, services and households in need of immediate solutions together to expedite and create the most efficiency process for addressing desperate needs..

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 831. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lori S. Melman, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Founder/Executive Director
Family Learning Solutions, Inc.
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