

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

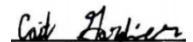
Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Cait Gardiner and I am writing to urge you to support HB 831. Last semester, I took a food policy class at my college in Boston, Massachusetts, and learned about the impact of a similar council in their state. This council and their work help promote a regional food system, sustainability in agriculture and the environment, and food security. After seeing the impact of this council's work as detailed through the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative, I believe our state would benefit immensely from a similar program.

In 2015, the Massachusetts Food Policy Council completed the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan. This plan detailed objectives in myriad areas related to their food system and created the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative to track its progress. Since its implementation, the Collaborative has worked to promote agricultural education, reduce food waste, and address tensions between farmers and local health regulations, among other projects detailed on their website. These are all principal goals in our state as well, and by creating a council comprised of elected officials, experts from our land grant universities, members from advocacy organizations, and others, we can create a plan to ensure our food system meets the needs of all Marylanders.

I urge a favorable report on HB 831 and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cait Gardiner  
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