



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 10, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB203 - Aquaculture Lease Applications - Notices, Protests, Meetings, and Conflict Resolution**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB203. This bill extends the riparian landowners that have standing on a Aquaculture lease application from land directly in front of the proposed lease to land that is within 500 feet from the edge of a proposed lease.

It also requires DNR to work with the landowners that have an issue with the proposed lease and the lease applicant to mitigate the concerns raised in the petition and consider conflict resolution between the shoreline property owners and lease applicants before issuing they can issue the lease permit.

Lastly, the bill further defines when DNR is required to hold a public hearing on a lease application. It adds: if the department determines that the person is raising a significant public health, safety, or welfare concern.

MDFB Policy: We strongly support responsible and workable actions designed to permit and protect the privilege and rights of farmers, commercial fisherman, and aquaculturalists, to produce without undue or unreasonable restrictions, regulations, or legislation. We support actions to ensure that farmers are protected from liability and nuisance suits when carrying out normal production practices.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 203

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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