



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 3, 2021

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**Re: Support of HB 508 - COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 508, legislation that would make it that if a business, government, non-profit, school or healthcare facility was abiding by federal, state, local statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders, and agency orders related to COVID-19, they would be immune from civil liability for a COVID-19 claim, unless there is gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing.

Maryland agriculture is made up of thousands of small farm businesses. Many of these farms have moved into a direct to the consumer type of agriculture operation. One of the many concerns that farmers face during this COVID-19 pandemic is the possibility of being sued even if they were following all the guidelines. This bill would help address this concern and help small businesses feel more comfortable to open back up.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 508 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.**

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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