

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

February 24, 2021

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

<u>Re: Support of SB 803 - Economic Development – Western Maryland Economic Future</u> <u>Investment Board and Fund – Establishment</u>

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 803, legislation that establishes the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board. The bill establishes the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide grant funding to capital infrastructure projects and business development projects that improve the economic conditions in the region. The amount of the fund would be \$20,000,000. The bill requires the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland to administer the Fund.

MDFB Policy: We support the State of Maryland increasing funding to the Tri-County Councils for the purpose of including and funding agricultural and natural resources development in their mission.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 803 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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Colby Ferguson Director of Government Relations

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