



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 10, 2021

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

## **Re: Support of HB 507 - Clean Water Commerce Act of 2021**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 507, legislation that addresses the sunset of the pilot program and establishes the Clean Water Commerce Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund. It requires the Department of the Environment to transfer \$20,000,000 from the Bay Restoration Fund to the Clean Water Commerce Fund beginning in fiscal year 2022. The bill alters the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund and repeals the authorization to use funds in the Bay Restoration Fund for costs associated with nutrient or sediment load reductions.

MDFB was involved in the workgroup to review and amend this bill over the last two months. **Therefore, we support the sponsor amendments being offered.**

**MDFB Policy:** We support voluntary mechanisms for nutrient reduction that allow farmers to receive fair compensation for nutrient removal and/or reductions.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 507 WITH SPONSOR AMENDMENTS.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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