



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 24, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health & Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB 716 - Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 716, legislation that prohibits a person from knowingly and intentionally releasing or causing to be released, or organizing the release of, balloons into the atmosphere. This does not apply to: (1) a balloon that is released for scientific or meteorological purposes; (2) a hot air balloon that is recovered after launch; or (3) the negligent or unintentional release of a balloon. The bill establishes a civil penalty of \$250 for a violation of the Act.

With the ribbon from balloons hindering a farmer during planting and harvesting of crops, removing this litter from the landscape will help reduce a farmer's cost for repairs and downtime when having to remove the ribbon from planters and harvest equipment.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We propose stricter enforcement of laws protecting property owners from losses due to trespassing, arson, vandalism, **littering**, poaching, and looting.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 716 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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