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TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Southern Maryland Delegation

DATE: February 8, 2021

RE: **SB 51/HB 639 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Property Management - Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center**

**The Southern Maryland Delegation has voted in support of:**

**SB 51/HB 639** – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Property Management - Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center

**Bill Overview:**

This bill is sponsored by **Senator Jack Bailey** for the purpose of authorizing the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to act as a property manager of the Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center owned by and located within St. Mary's County.

**Bill Outline:**

1. This bill would make a technical change to the Tri-County Council's General Provisions that would allow SMADC the ability to act as the property manager for the Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that is being built in cooperation with St. Mary's County for the benefit of all Southern Maryland agricultural producers.
2. The reason for the change is that the current Tri-County Council statute places restrictions on the services that SMADC can offer at the RAC. A fully operational RAC with SMADC as the property manager is vital to continued growth of agriculture specifically, and the economic growth of Southern Maryland in general.

The Southern Maryland Delegation respectfully request that you support Southern Maryland agriculture with a favorably report of **SB 51/HB 639**.