



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 4, 2021

To: House Ways & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**Re: Support of HB 1144 - Economic Development – Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Fund – Establishment**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1144, 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 HB 1144 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.**

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*