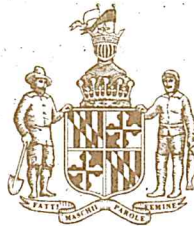


**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
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Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
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***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 378***

***TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND –  
FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION***

***BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE***

***FEBRUARY 9, 2022***

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 378 is a simple piece of legislation that requires the Governor to make a yearly appropriation of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to fund the work of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission serves Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's counties providing a myriad of resources to the farming community. SMADC works to connect local farmers to consumers and provides support, grants, and promotional assistance to help the Southern Maryland farming community grow and thrive.

The consistent yearly allocation provided by this legislation would provide SMADC a completely dependable funding source that would allow them to grow and multiply their efforts and to sustain the rich agricultural history of Southern Maryland in perpetuity.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 378.**