

Crone Testimony SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Amy Crone

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Amy G. Crone

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am a farmer in Anne Arundel County and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive consistent funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

Our farm received a grant from SMADC as well as utilizing SMADC's technical assistance so that we can sell meat from our farm. I also serve as part of the SMADC small grants review group – a program that has now provided almost \$200,000 in grants to farmers in the region. I have seen the difference that SMADC has made in improving farms throughout the 5 county area. The RAC will make a huge difference for small farmers in the area, and in particular help meat producers become more viable. Lastly, I started the Maryland Market Money program and over the years have seen the impact it has made on food access and ensuring that everyone can purchase fresh healthy locally grown food. MMM is an important program that should be regularly funded since it helps both low-income Marylanders and farmers simultaneously.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy G. Crone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy G. Crone
Owner, HopScratch Farm
www.hopscratchfarm.com

410-279-5467

MFA Support SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Hill

Position: FAV



Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 332

Linkwood, MD 21835

410-463-1755

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice-Chair
Maryland Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West - Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB0378- Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission-Support

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Forests Association (MFA) supports and encourages the passage of SB0378

Maryland Forests Association, Inc. (MFA) is Maryland's voice for forest, wildlife, and natural resource management. As a non-profit 501 c(3) membership-driven organization established in 1976, we represent the entire forest community statewide. Our membership includes private landowners, foresters, recreational groups, and industry stakeholders. We are a conservation-minded group that wants to see forests remain forests. Our industry and goals are often misunderstood and confused with land clearing and land-use change.

The Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission has been critical in helping our organization stomp out these misconceptions. They have produced several publications that shine a positive light on forestry- highlighting the social, environmental, and economic benefits of sustainable forest management. These productions have helped move the needle on public perception placing forestry more on par with agriculture where it should be.

I am writing to you in solid support of SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into Maryland every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund; however, it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund. For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other agriculture sectors-such as tree farms! SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community and being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as MFA.

Passage of SB06378 is crucial because the partnership with SMADC helps MFA accomplish our vision- "The Maryland Forests Association envisions a future in which vibrant forests are maintained throughout the State, providing diverse economic and environmental benefits to all."

In closing, SMADC has a proven track record of successful projects. Therefore, I respectfully request your favorable report on SB0378, which would allow SMADC to continue serving the agriculture and forest communities of Southern Maryland. Feel free to contact me via email at beth@mdforests.org with any questions or concerns

Sincerely,

Elizabeth D. Hill
Executive Director Maryland Forests Association

PABF_Testimony_SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Brian Wort

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Brian Wort, Farm Manager, P.A. Bowen Farmstead

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am Brian Wort, the Farm Manager for P.A. Bowen Farmstead in Brandywine, MD, and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For *many* years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

SMADC also provides valuable workshops, farm tours, and other educational opportunities for farmers to continued learning and improvement. SMADC's ongoing marketing efforts with crucial promotional publications such as the "So. Maryland, So Good: Buy Local Guide" and "So. MD Holiday Farm Guide" provide a much-needed consumer guide to Southern Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, farm stores that greatly benefits both MD farms and consumers. Southern Maryland Meats is another promotional project from SMADC.

SMDAC also provides scholarships for farmers to attend various informational workshops that focus on important issues such as legal compliance, food safety, and other skills farmers need to help their business thrive.

SMADC is sponsoring half my tuition for the LEAD Maryland Foundation, Class XII, without which I would not be able to make the financial commitments to this two-year course for agricultural leadership skills.

I would very much like to see this bill supported to allow SMADC to continue to be the hands-down best resource Southern Maryland farmers have available.

Best Regards,
Brian Wort
Farm Manager
P.A. Bowen Farmstead
Brandywine, MD 20613
(301) 579-2727

SMADC testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Chantal Brooks

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Chantal Brooks, 804 Cattle Company

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am Dr. Chantal Brooks. In 2016, my family and I moved to Prince George's county and started a small beef cattle farm called 804 Cattle Company. We currently sell pasture-raised beef to the local community through on farm pickups and monthly delivery. I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties. It also maintains several statewide agricultural programs.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

Since 2016, 804 Cattle Company has worked closely with SMADC. SMADC has been our go-to resource for marketing; meeting and working with other farmers in the area; and providing valuable insights on state-funded assistance programs. In addition to their marketing of our farm through websites, articles and videos, their grants have allowed us to improve our cattle handling facilities as well as purchase freezers so that we could expand to meet the demands of Maryland residents facing meat shortages during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Their mission to provide farmers with centralized information to grow

their potential and for consumers to access these same farms is one that they have fulfilled many times over. This organization is key to farming success in Southern Maryland and must be supported.

Best Regards,

Chantal N Brooks, MD

Manager of 804 Cattle Company

Testimony SB0378 - Chip Bowling.pdf

Uploaded by: Chip Bowling

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Chip Bowling, Southern Maryland Farmer, and U.S Farmers & Ranchers Alliance BOD

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

My name is Chip Bowling, and I'm a fifth generation Southern Maryland Farmer, and a member of the U.S Farmers & Ranchers Alliance Board of Directors. I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

I encourage you to support SB0378, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best Regards,

Chip Bowling
SOMD Farmer
USFRA BOD

Support of SB 378 - Tri-County Council for Souther

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 9, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of SB378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB378. This is legislation that requires the Governor to appropriate \$900,000 to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland from the Cigarette Restitution Fund in fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter. It also requires the funds appropriated under the Act to be used for the purpose of funding the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

For many years now, farmers in Southern Maryland have utilized the Cigarette Restitution funds to transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of production agriculture like fruit and vegetable production as well as direct to consumer sales. Continuing these funds is critical to assisting farmers as they continue to find ways to remain profitable in an area of the state where the competition for land use steadily increases year after year. SMADC has been very effective at creating opportunities for farmers in Southern Maryland, and we recommend that process continue.

Maryland Farm Bureau 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 SB 378 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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

SMADC Itr 020722aa.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Donohue

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Maryland State Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

From: Daniel A. Donohue
16401 Old Marshall Hall Road
Accokeek, Maryland 20607

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am a native Marylander and veteran. I live on the farm I grew up on and presently raise beef cattle and hay. This property is in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Trust and is a Certified Tree Farm. I am one of the Prince George's County members of the Board of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). In addition I am on the Prince George's County Forestry Board, the Alice Ferguson Foundation Board, an environmental education and agricultural foundation in Accokeek, and the Resilience Authority of Charles County. Our farm is in Prince George's and Charles counties.

I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for SMADC. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other agricultural industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming and small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.

- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.

- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

Respectfully ask that SB0378 be strongly endorsed by the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee to insure that SMADC continues to support the agricultural economic interests of not only Southern Maryland but the entire state. My personal experience is in attending their informational meetings on the planning for the Regional Agricultural Center that will enhance agricultural income in the Southern Maryland region once it is completed. I found these meeting very informative and helpful. In addition through SMADC's Southern Maryland Meats program they have sponsored frozen meat trailers that producers can rent for a nominal fee in order to move their processed meat from a slaughterhouse back to local markets and customers. I have used the frozen meat trailer and it is very useful when I have been moving frozen USDA processed beef, usually from 5 -6 head of cattle, approximately 2,500 to 3,000 pounds back to my customer. Also, the Southern Maryland Meats representative assisted me in finding a commercial buyer to purchase the USDA inspected beef I produce. SMADC is vital to the agricultural interests and its support for agricultural conservation practices is vital.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Daniel A. Donohue

Testimony_SMADC.pdf

Uploaded by: Felicia Mumbert

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Felicia Mumbert

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

As a local homesteader and gardener living on a farm in Southern Maryland, I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

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- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

I have never been more impressed with an organization's consistent and excellent service, reputation in the community, or ability to partner with people from all walks of life than I have with SMADC. SMADC has thrived under excellent leadership with well-defined core values that serve as its legacy and focus. Living on a farm in Southern Maryland has given me a deeper appreciation for the hard-working farmers that fuel our community, as well as an understanding of the needs of their families. SMADC has a passion that has made a huge difference in our agricultural community in Southern Maryland. They have assisted farmers and their families, fund-raised, educated and served the community, and can continue to do so if more funding is given.

Best Regards,

Felicia Mumbert

Southern Maryland Homesteader & gardener

Serenity Farm Inc support letter for SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Franklin Robinson

Position: FAV

SERENITY FARM, INC.

PO Box 305
Benedict, Maryland 20612
(301) 274-3829

serenityfarm1@gmail.com

7 February 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
From: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Secretary, Serenity Farm, Inc.
Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

To the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family, owners of Serenity Farm, Inc. located in Benedict, Maryland. I wish to voice our strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

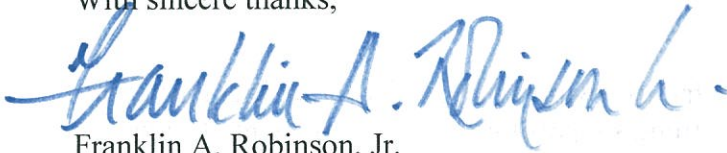
Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.

- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

SMADC funding and programming has been instrumental in moving our operation from a tobacco dependent economy to one based on farm raised local meats and produce, and agritourism. The impact of SMADC to our region and the state through their programs such as Buy Local Challenge, Farm Viability Grants, Seed Grants, etc. is incalculable. We strongly ask and urge that you approve SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

With sincere thanks,



Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.
Secretary
Serenity Farm, Inc.
Cell: (301) 399-1636

PGCFB SB0378 Letter of Support.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Harrison Palmer

Position: FAV



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

13501 Molly Berry Road Brandywine, MD 20613

PGCFB.org – 301.579.6552 – PGCFB@yahoo.com

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Prince George's County Farm Bureau

Re: Support of SB0378 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland -Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

On behalf of the Prince George's County Farm Bureau, I would like to express our support of SB0378 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). This bill dedicates \$900,000 annually from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF), that comes to the State every year in perpetuity, to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department.

SMADC has used the CRF to help farmers transition out of tobacco production into other sectors of agriculture, and has opened the doors to agritourism and other value-added programs to increase the viability of Southern Maryland farms. They have brought to light the extreme value of agriculture in this area and the role it plays in bringing fresh, locally produced agricultural products to our region and beyond. Their numerous projects, including the Regional Agricultural Center (RAC), have transformed and continue to transform the agricultural business economy of Southern Maryland. It is through their invaluable support that farmers have been able to continue to preserve the rich agricultural history of the area and reshape the farmer-consumer relationship in this developing region.

SMADC works very closely with the Prince George's County Farm Bureau and all of the agricultural industry partners including Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and others. We strongly support the full funding of \$900,000 annually to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Best Regards,

Sincerely,

Harrison B. Palmer

Harrison Palmer

Prince George's County Farm Bureau

SB378_FAV_Montgomery County Food Council.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Bruskin

Position: FAV



February 7, 2022

2022 SESSION SUPPORT TESTIMONY
SB378: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland -
Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

BILL: SB378: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
POSITION: Testimony of Support of Senate Bill 378
BILL ANALYSIS: Passing the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission; Requiring the Governor to appropriate \$900,000 to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland from the Cigarette Restitution Fund in fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter; and requiring the funds appropriated under the Act to be used for the purpose of funding the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Montgomery County Food Council urges you to **SUPPORT** SB378 and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), which will enhance the food system throughout Maryland. SMADC is a key food system resource provider and partner, not only in Southern Maryland, but across the state for farmers and producers who want to connect with new customers and market opportunities, and for consumers who want to connect with local farms and food. SMADC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that receives funding from the state of Maryland, but the 2020 statewide budget resulted in a 25% reduction in SMADC's overall budget. This has far-reaching implications, especially for the Maryland Market Money (MMM) program, which is run jointly by SMADC and the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation.

Maryland Market Money provides a dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits at Maryland farmers markets, including nine access points in Montgomery County. This helps remove economic barriers for food-insecure Marylanders to access nutrient-rich foods and bolsters revenues for local farmers. Since its establishment in 2013, MMM has helped thousands of Marylanders who participate in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, eWIC, and SNAP to purchase locally grown produce, distributing over \$900,000.¹ They have recently started an E-Incentive pilot in partnership with two farmers markets in Montgomery County, and are providing critical leadership in shifting participating farmers markets and farmstands towards electronic benefits. MMM promotes a circular economy where more dollars are invested in the local economy to expand opportunities for small business growth and job creation.

For these reasons the Montgomery County Food Council is FOR HB0147 and urges a favorable report FOR this bill.

The Montgomery County Food Council is a nonprofit organization that serves as the primary connection point for businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and residents around food system issues in our County. We bring together over 2,000 local and regional partners in community-wide education, advocacy, and capacity building initiatives. Our work cultivates a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable local food system by enhancing food access for the over 100,000 at risk for hunger, expanding food education opportunities for all residents, supporting our County's farms and food and beverage businesses, and addressing the impact of local food production, distribution, consumption and recycling on our natural resources.

For more information, please contact: Heather Bruskin, MCFC Executive Director at the email and phone number below.

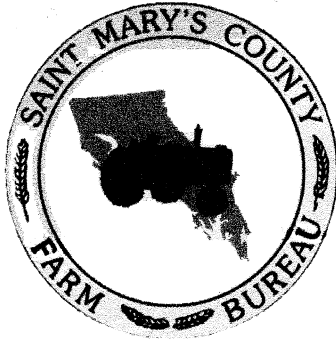
¹ Maryland Market Money, 2020. "Maryland Market Money 2020 Annual Report."



SB0378_Raley_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: James K. Raley Jr.

Position: FAV



ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU

26737 Radio Station Way, Ste. G.

Leonardtown, MD 20650

(240) 309-4183

www.mdfarmbureau.com/st-marys

WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947

Senate Bill 378

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for
Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

Favorable

February 7, 2022

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau supports SB 378—Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, which is being heard in the Budget and Taxation Committee.

Farm bureau supports SB 378 and requests a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit farmers in St. Mary's County and the Southern Maryland region.

Sincerely,

James K. Raley, Jr.

President

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

Cc: St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation
St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners
Ms. Shelby Watson-Hampton, Director, SMADC

Testimony Letter - SMADC.pdf

Uploaded by: Janet Kilpatrick

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
From: Janet Kilpatrick
Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

My husband and I own and operate VFF Produce, a Mobile Farmers Market in Washington County. We purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers and transport them directly to the food desert areas of Hagerstown. I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- **SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low-income families.**

Many of our customers use their SNAP benefits to purchase the fresh produce that we sell. In 2021 we utilized SMADC's Maryland Market Money (MMM) Program for the first time. With the addition of the MMM program, our SNAP customers were able to buy twice as much produce since SMADC reimbursed us for 50% of the purchase. This made a huge impact on our customers. As we prepare for the 2022 season, it is imperative that we again offer SNAP customers the ability to participate in the MMM Program which increases their buying ability, especially as food prices continue to increase.

Respectfully,
Janet Z Kilpatrick, Business Manager
VFF Produce, LLC

SMADC Testimony SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: Joan Bearden

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Joan Hill Bearden

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am Joan Hill Bearden of PZ Hill Farm LLC in Mechanicsville MD. My family and I have been involved in farming for many years, and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

As a farm owner and current board member of SMADC, I have experienced firsthand the value of SMADC support and the dedication of the staff to resolve agriculture issues in Southern Maryland. I am particularly proud of the recent accomplishment of securing the construction of the Regional Agriculture Center in St. Mary's County. I feel this project is a perfect example of how SMADC supports agricultural and community needs.

I feel the accomplishments listed above clearly demonstrate the value of supporting SMADC and the benefits it provides to agricultural and community interest in the region. As we head into an uncertain

future it is critical that we ensure that agriculture continues to remain a vital industry in the region and the state of Maryland.

Best Regards,

Joan Hill Bearden

Joan Hill Bearden, Co-owner/Operator PZ Hill Farm LLC

Letter of Support Testimony SB0378 Commissioner Mo

Uploaded by: John Hartline

Position: FAV



TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 745 HUGHESVILLE, MARYLAND 20637

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TCCSMD

WWW.TCCSMD.ORG

(301) 274-1922

(301) 870-2520

FAX (301) 274-1924

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Commissioner Todd B. Morgan

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, the current Chairman of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the Greater Southern Maryland farming community (5-counties), as well as being a valued partner to other agricultural industry organizations such as MARBICO, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of Maryland fresh food to low-income families.

Now serving my fifth time as Chair of the Council over twelve years, I encourage you to support this important funding legislation to expand our local food production to all people of Maryland

Sincerely,

John F. Hartline, Executive Director, signing on behalf of
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan Chair, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Scanned from Maurice J. McDonough High School (2).

Uploaded by: Kelly Bryant

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Kelly Bryant

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. As a farmer and an agriculture teacher in Southern Maryland I am writing to express my strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
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- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

Not only has SMADC assisted me and my husband with growing our small farm business, but they also assist create opportunities for secondary agriculture programs to participate in field trips. The field trips allow students to meet subject matter experts out in the field. It may be visiting an oyster farmer, meeting with the local Soil Conservation District representatives and completing hands-on activities in the soil pit, or visiting the University of Maryland Agriculture Institute. As an agricultural instructor, I am grateful for the funding assistance SMADC provides for these hands-on activity's students need to understand the importance of agriculture in everyday life.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301.399.9812 or kbryant@ccboe.com.

Best Regards,



Kelly Middleton Bryant

K & T Kettle Corn and Certified Agriculture Teacher in Charles County Public Schools

SB378_FAV_SMADC_AtticksGrowFortify.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Atticks

Position: FAV



Bill #	SB378
Position	SUPPORT

February 9, 2022

Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the Committee—

I am writing to you in **strong support for SB378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

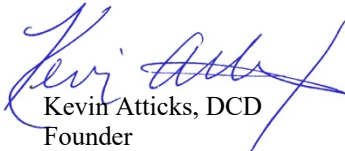
For many years now, SMADC has utilized the CRF fund to help farmers transition out of tobacco production and into other sectors of agriculture. SMADC has a proven track record in providing valuable assistance, programs, and grant funds to the farming community, as well as being a valued partner to other ag industry organizations such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and others.

SMADC has served Maryland's value-added agriculture community by:

- Offering grants to encourage a transition to from tobacco to vineyards, a long-term, high-value crop;
- Funding reports and studies on value-added agriculture, forestry and more, directing farmers and entrepreneurs to precise opportunities;
- Executing complex plans to develop marketing programs, on-farm processing and equipment coordination efforts to make real impacts and enhance local business' operations.

Enter a few sentences on your own experience with SMADC and why funding is important

Sincerely,



Kevin Atticks, DCD
Founder

*Cultivating an environment where value-added agricultural producers,
startups, operators and growers innovate and thrive.*

SB 378 Maryland Horse Council Testimony -- FAVORAB

Uploaded by: KIMBERLY EGAN

Position: FAV



One Common Bond | The Horse
One Common Voice | The Maryland Horse Council

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 378

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC supports SB 378 because the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) plays an important role in the horse industry, and because horses play an important role in Southern Maryland's agricultural economy. As of 2010, the latest year for which data is available, there were 3,210 equine properties in Southern Maryland covering 30,900 acres and supporting an equine population of 17,000 horses. The value of Southern Maryland's horse-related assets is over \$703 million in 2022 dollars.

SMADC supports Southern Maryland's robust equine industry by publishing a comprehensive guide, called [Southern Maryland Horse Extra](#), that connects consumers with the horse industry. The on-line guide lists each of the Southern Maryland stables that are licensed by the Maryland Horse Industry Board, as well as the area's hay and feed suppliers; tack shops; veterinary, dental, and farrier services; clinicians, coaches, and judges; equine clubs and organizations; and riding trails.

State support for SMADC will help the horse industry continue to thrive, along with the people and businesses that rely on it.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)

Letter of Support SMADC.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Zimmerman

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Lauren Zimmerman

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am the winemaker for Port of Leonardtown Winery, and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

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Funding SMADC is crucial because:

- SMADC serves 2,011 farms on 205,000 acres in the five county Southern Maryland area; Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, & St. Mary's Counties, and maintains several statewide agricultural programs now as well.
- In FY22, with only \$900,000 in operating funds provided by the State to run the organization, SMADC proceeded to bring an additional \$1.3 million dollars into Maryland via non-state funding for programs and grants supporting the Maryland farming & small business community. SMADC is a good investment for the state.
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- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

There are over 100 wineries in Maryland, of which over 10, are located in Southern Maryland. All wineries holding a M4 License are required to have 51% of their production be from Maryland fruit, making local vineyards essential to this industry. This value-added Maryland industry has close to a 200 million dollar economic impact. The wine industry allows farmers to keep their land agricultural while creating local jobs. SMADC has been instrumental in the growth of local wineries and vineyards in Southern Maryland.

Best Regards,

Lauren Y. Zimmerman

Winemaker

Port of Leonardtown Winery

Linda L. Jones Testimony SB0378.pdf

Uploaded by: linda jones

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Linda L. Jones

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

I am Linda L. Jones, urban farmer, and owner of Elements of Nature -Botanicals and Farmaceuticals, Clinton, MD, and I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

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- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low-income families.

As a new board member of SMADC representing urban farmers in Prince Georges County, I have witnessed positive and professional collective engagement and supportive discussions within the group in ways that are clearly meant to be part of the solution to helping our farmers, big and small, to grow, thrive and become successful in meeting constant new and emerging needs in determining how food gets to the table of our citizens. SMADC has proven to be a driving force in the recognition of urban agricultural entities and their missions and goals of local farmers and helping them to not only survive but thrive, especially in its fair consideration and distribution of grant money within the region.

Best Regards,

Linda L. Jones, owner, Elements of Nature Urban Farm

Testimony SB0378 - Lucille Walker.pdf

Uploaded by: Lucille Walker

Position: FAV

February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Lucille Walker, Executive Director Southern Maryland Heritage Area, SMADC Vice Chair

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

My name is Lucille Walker, and I am the Executive Director Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and Vice Chair of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). I am writing to you in strong support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

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- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

I encourage you to support SB0378, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best Regards,

Lucille Walker

Executive Director Southern Maryland Heritage Area

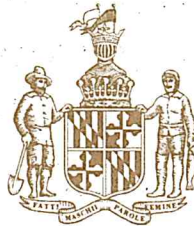
Vice Chair of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

JacksonSB378Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

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.

SB 378 - Favorable - Commissioners of St. Mary's

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

**Senate Bill 378
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern
Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**

SUPPORT

February 1, 2022

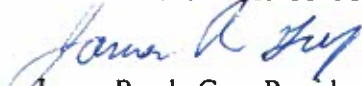
The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT SB 378 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission** which is being heard in the Budget and Taxation Committee.

We support SB 378 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/017

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Catherine Pratson, Acting Co-County Administrator
David Weiskopf, Acting, Co-County Administrator

SMADC Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Reuben Collins

Position: FAV



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Bobby Rucci, *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 7, 2022

Bill: SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland
Agricultural Development Commission
Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and Members:

The Charles County Commissioners are seeking your support of the above-entitled SB 378. SMADC is a critical resource to the Southern Maryland agricultural community. By providing guaranteed State funding through SB 378, SMADC will be able to continue expanding and promoting viable and profitable agricultural farming in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties. Additionally, SMADC will continue to support our regional agricultural community in the form of grants, and marketing & promotion of goods produced by Southern Maryland farmers which provide a positive rate of return for the local economy.

SMADC is in the process of building a regional agricultural center that will improve the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond. The center is envisioned to be a hub for agricultural and livestock products, as well as a place to provide instructional and regulatory-advice services for Southern Maryland farmers. The guaranteed financial support of the State is essential to continuing the important and transformative work of the organization.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our enthusiastic support for SB 378.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

County Commissioners of Charles County
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Legislative Delegation

Testimony SB0378 Shelby Watson-Hampton.pdf

Uploaded by: Shelby Watson-Hampton

Position: FAV



February 7, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
From: Shelby Watson-Hampton, SMADC Director

Re: Support of SB0378 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and other distinguished members of the Committee,

As Director for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), I am writing to request your support for SB0378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

The bill is asking for an annual budget of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) to be funded to the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland for their SMADC department (TCCSMD/SMADC). The CRF fund is part of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) that comes into the state every year in perpetuity. SMADC currently receives \$900,000 from that fund, however it is due to sunset soon; this bill would ensure that SMADC continues to receive funding from the continual non-lapsing CRF fund.

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The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
is a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
P.O. Box 745 Hughesville, MD 20637
Phone - 240-528-8850 ~ Email – info@smadc.com





- SMADC is currently in the process of building a \$4.7 million dollar Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) that will transform the agricultural business economy in Southern Maryland and beyond, and that is estimated to create 17 additional jobs for the region.
- SMADC's Maryland Market Money Program serves 550 local producers and 46 farmers markets statewide, providing over \$449,000 worth of fresh food to low income families.

We humbly request that you help us pass this bill and secure these funds for the vital programs SMADC provides for the farming community in Southern Maryland, and across the state.

Best Regards,

Shelby Watson Hampton

Shelby Watson-Hampton
Director, Southern Maryland
Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)
swatsonhampton@smadc.com
www.smadc.com
(240) 304-8535

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
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SB 378 Funding for SMADC (Jackson) B&T 2.9.22 SOI.

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Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 378 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Development Commission (Jackson)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 9, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 378 mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to fund the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the \$900,000 annual mandated appropriation from the Cigarette Restitution Fund. The FY 2023 Budget allowance includes \$900,000 for SMADC to assist in the transition of the Southern Maryland agricultural sector from tobacco to other agricultural purposes. Despite FY 2020 being the last year of funding in the Tobacco Transition Program, SMADC has continued to receive operating funds.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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