



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 23, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 798 - Community Healthy Air Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 798. This bill establishes the Committee on Air Quality to create, on or before January 1, 2023, an air quality sampling and monitoring protocol for the collection of air quality and public health data associated with certain large animal-feeding operations.

The Committee consists of 8 of the following members: one expert in regulatory compliance, selected by the Office of the Attorney General and then members selected by Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health and the Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: 1. one expert in air pollution sampling and monitoring; 2. one expert in spatial statistics and monitoring; 3. one expert in exposure science; 4. one expert in environmental epidemiology; 5. one expert in toxicology; 6. one expert in human health risk assessment; and 7. one preventive medicine physician.

Based on the outline of the committee, the intent is to eliminate the poultry and dairy industry in Maryland. This committee has no expertise in agriculture and would have concern on the real-world hassles and inabilities to implement the monitoring and assessment of human health. The assumptions would be very biased and conclude with the requirement to eliminate CAFO's based on impossible regulations and restrictions.

Farmers currently install riparian buffers in front of fans to capture any particulate that might come from the house. These buffers are not only a good neighbor practice, but they also capture particulates that could leave the farm.

MDFB Policy: We Oppose requiring CAFO's to install air quality monitoring devices.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 798

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

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