



February 7, 2022

To: House Economic Matters Committee
From: Shelby Watson-Hampton, SMADC Director

Re: Support of HB 409 Corporations and Associations - Annual Reports - Fees for Electronic Filings

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and other distinguished members of the Committee,

As Director for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) I am writing in support of HB 490 Corporations and Associations - Annual Reports - Fees for Electronic Filings.

This legislation makes Maryland the first state in the country to provide a zero-fee option for all businesses for this type of filing, which is required to be submitted every year with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) via the award-winning website Maryland Business Express. It amends Maryland's annual report fee structure to be among the most competitive in the nation, and incentivizes online filing, which is a more efficient and cost-effective filing method for businesses and the state, and it will bring much-needed relief to Maryland's small business community, which continues to grow by historic numbers since the onset of the pandemic.

As SMADC assists farmers and agriculturally based small businesses, we are in support of efforts that make reporting easier and less of a financial burden for those small businesses and farmer entrepreneurs; as such, we support HB 409. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best Regards,

Shelby Watson Hampton

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