



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 30, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 156 - Local Governments – Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones – Authorization**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 156, As amended, legislation that authorizes local governments to establish urban agricultural incentive zones. The bill also authorizes local governments to provide various tax incentives to persons involved in urban agricultural activities.

The bill allows municipalities to offer certain incentives (reduced water/electricity prices, tax reductions, etc) and would enable Maryland to take advantage of existing USDA grants.

## **Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:**

- We support and encourage urban farming/agriculture.
- We support modifying zoning laws to promote urban agriculture and the right to farm within urban areas and city limits.
- We support ongoing skills' development training in urban agriculture for all ages.
- We support the expansion of urban farming and the creation of a clear pathway to land ownership for urban farmers.
- We support grant programs to provide infrastructure for urban farms.

## **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 156 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT**

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*