



January 25, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: Senate Bill 121 - Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program – Alterations and Establishment

Position: *Support*

Chairman Pinsky & Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) to express our support for Senate Bill 121 – Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program – Alterations and Establishment. This bill alters the use of the Maryland Farms and Families Fund by establishing a series of grants that assist food banks and schools who locally source their meals.

Expanded in 2019, The Maryland Farms and Families Fund provides financial resources to non-profit farmers markets and organizations who provide services to Maryland's food deserts. As a non-profit association that provides a voice for all 24 individual soil conservation districts, MASCD continues their legacy of support of agriculture within the rural and urban communities of Maryland.

As a supporter of the Maryland Farms and Families Fund, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 121, which shows your dedicated support to the agricultural community. Thank you for your kind consideration and attention to this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Nelson, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts