



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

March 1, 2022

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 782 - Workgroup on the Post-COVID-19 Crisis Economic Transition**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 782, legislation that establishes the Workgroup on the Post-COVID-19 Crisis Economic Transition, staffed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), to make recommendations regarding how the State may adjust its economic development and other strategies in the context of changes resulting from crises in sectors, as specified. The workgroup may retain the services of the University of Maryland, and \$500,000 must be appropriated for that purpose. The workgroup must make recommendations regarding how the State may adjust its economic development and other strategies in the context of changes resulting from crisis in sectors including (1) telehealth; (2) telework; (3) online education, from kindergarten to graduate programs; (4) child care; (5) job creation acceleration; (6) unemployment compensation; (7) underemployment; (8) small businesses and entrepreneurship; (9) tax system modernization; (10) changes in real estate; (11) supply chain management; (12) small businesses that are not associated with a chain store; (13) rebuilding the public health system; and (14) other impacts on public services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to be very hard on the Ag community. The cost of many of the farm inputs has tripled for the 2022 growing season due to the lack of availability and inflation.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We strongly oppose the increase of unemployment insurance rates to pay for the unemployment due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We support repaying the unemployment insurance trust fund with federal COVID funding.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 782 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