



February 9, 2022

Re: House Bill 156 (Delegate Pam Queen)

Dear Delegate Queen,

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 156 (Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones)
- Delegate Queen**

I am the owner and operator of New Brooklyn Farms, a 5-year-old urban farm business located in Mt. Rainier, MD. In 2019, I led grassroots efforts to pass 2 pieces of legislation to expand urban farming in Prince George's County. I am also a member of the Farmer Advisory Council for the Fair Farms Campaign (Waterkeepers Chesapeake).

I am writing to express my full support of House Bill 156 and your plan to establish urban agricultural incentive zones and support governance in MD.

I am excited to see House Bill 156 offer comprehensive support for the nascent yet diverse business sector that I work in.

In addition to the well-documented positive impacts on community health, education, and preservation, several case studies display the urban agriculture industry's economic viability. However, similar to its rural counterpart, the urban agriculture industry also has risk and volatility (e.g. crop failure, natural disasters), as well as high barriers to entry (e.g. land, equipment, infrastructure). I believe that urban agriculture requires similar support to reach its full economic potential. Your proposed tax credit and discounted utility rates for qualifying farmers will contribute to creating much-needed support for urban agriculture business owners in the face of financial pressures in rapidly developing urban areas.

I also believe that the proposed creation of urban agricultural incentive zone committees creates synergies with other legislation and initiatives to heighten levels of social proof and equitable leadership. These committees will build value that will expand urban agriculture's support base.

Thank you again for your efforts thus far in proposing this bill. Please let me know how I can further support your work on this issue.

Best regards,

Doug Adams

Owner - New Brooklyn Farms, Benefit LLC

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