



March 31, 2021  
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
91 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1904

**House Bill 179 (Delegate Amprey)**  
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

Fair Farms humbly asks for a favorable report with amendments for HB 179. When it comes to the policy-making process, what does not get measured, does not get managed and is therefore ignored. The COVID-19 Pandemic made it clear that communities in our state impacted by food insecurity can no longer be ignored. These issues existed before the pandemic and will continue if not identified and communicated to elected officials and administrators.

We believe that establishing a workgroup is an excellent method of studying food environments. However, it is difficult to tell if the workgroup will be representative of underserved populations, or people living in low-income census tracts or in food deserts. Many institutions, including Johns Hopkins which is part of this workgroup, have already identified such areas in Maryland. Fair Farms urges the committee to consider adding language that would reflect these suggestions. We appreciate including representatives of grocery stores but adding representatives from organizations that serve food insecure people may be valuable as well.

Thank you to Delegate Amprey, his staff, and the stakeholders involved in drafting this bill. Fair Farms greatly appreciates your leadership. We look forward to future opportunities for collaboration on these systemic issues.

Sincerely,

Humon Heidarian  
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