



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

February 2, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 184 - Environment - On-Farm Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 184, legislation that requires the MDE to adopt regulations to exempt an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit if the on-farm composting facility uses 40,000 square feet or less in support of food scrap composting and meets any other condition for a permit exemption specified in regulations.

Many farmers look for ways to reduce fertilizer costs and improve soil quality by using compost on their fields. Making the process easier to incorporate food waste into farm compost, not only will reduce these organic feedstocks going into landfills, but also improves the quality of compost the farms use. Food waste are good sources of essential nutrients needed by plants. The nitrogen is in a form that is readily to the plant. Lastly, food waste adds valuable organic matter to compost. Removing some of the burdensome permitting process would help expand this renewable practice in Maryland.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We support the right for Maryland farmers to make and process mulch and compost from both on and off the farm sources.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 184 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson".

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396