



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 25, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 884 - State Conservation Land - Old-Growth Forests - Protection**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 884. This bill establishes protections for old-growth forests located on State conservation land. The bill requires that whenever the Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Environmental Trust identify an old-growth forest on State conservation land, the land shall be managed in a way that minimizes disturbance to the old-growth forest, prioritizes passive recreational opportunities, prohibits logging and the construction of public amenities, and minimizes the risks posed by disease and invasive species.

All we need to do is to look at the California wildfires as what can happen when forested areas are not maintained. Removing forest management is a long-term disaster waiting to happen. This bill removes that ability to sustainably manage many of the forests in the state.

MDFB Policy: We oppose conservation easements prohibiting timber harvest. We support sustainable forest management on preserved agricultural land.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 884

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