



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 16, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 653 - Conservation Finance Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 653. The focus of the bill is on actions that improve water quality, but the changes will also advance environmental justice and public health, expand initiatives around forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration, and reward projects that deliver co-benefits like local jobs, flood risk reduction, or climate resilience. Many of the changes are designed to make it easier for private funding and financing to play a role in helping Maryland achieve these outcomes.

Improving the process to incorporate more climate and water quality Best Management Practices on the farming landscape is not only good for the environment, but also good for the farmer. Allowing for fair compensation for installing these practices, makes it more viable for a working family farm.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We support voluntary mechanisms for nutrient and carbon reduction on both farms and forests that allow farmers and/or landowners to receive fair compensation for nutrient removal and/or carbon reductions.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 653 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