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Date: February 14, 2022  
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director  
Re: HB 653 – Conservation Finance Act– **SUPPORT**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware **supports** HB 653.

HB 653 would make it clear that participants of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Environmental Trust cost share programs would still be able to participate in and receive additional compensation from greenhouse gas markets, carbon credits or soil carbon programs.

Farmers continue to go above and beyond to prove they are the first environmentalists, including implementing best management practices on farms. They do so for a number of reasons, but at the end of the day, these practices can help not only the farm, but also the environment for all of Marylanders. Farmers should continue to receive the credit they deserve for these efforts – whether through cost-share or through carbon credits.

Many of Maryland's chicken growers participate in the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share (MACS) program for help in building manure storage structures or planting vegetative environmental buffers. DCA wants to continue to encourage growers to add additional best management practices to their farms and be sure to utilize all available funding sources to do so. This bill would encourage growers to do so, all while helping with the challenges of better water quality and slowing climate change.

For these reasons, we urge an **favorable** vote on HB 653.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [porter@dcachicken.com](mailto:porter@dcachicken.com) or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.