



ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947

House Bill 558
Land Use - Agritourism - Definition
Favorable

February 14, 2022

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 558, Land Use - Agritourism - Definition, Hearing date February 16, 2022.

Dear Chairman Barve,

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau supports altering the definition of "agritourism" to include camping and incidental stays for the purpose of authorizing a local jurisdiction to adopt the definition of "agritourism".

Our citizens benefit from attending activities conducted on a farm for the purpose of education, recreation, or active involvement in the farm operation, including incidental outdoor stays as an accessory use on a working farm. Passage of Senate Bill 296 will provide another opportunity for farmers to remain profitable and for the public to learn more about agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. Raley, Jr.

President

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau