



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

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**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Prince George's County Farm Bureau, Inc.

**Re:** House Bill 0855- Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and Fund - Establishment

**Date:** February 25, 2022

On behalf of the Prince George's County Farm Bureau, I would like to express our backing of House Bill 0855, which supports urban farmers through a grant program that improves access to water and electricity.

Urban Agriculture in Prince George's County provides residents access to locally produced healthy foods in areas that historically have been undeserved. As the Urban Agriculture community is rapidly expanding, it is imperative that they are provided the resources needed to continue to contribute to Healthy Food Priority Areas and successfully continue to contribute to food priority areas and local food production networks.

Access to clean water to irrigate during the growing season and wash crops after harvest is critical for maximum production and safe food handling. Because urban farmers typically operate using city water and not their own independent well, it is often more challenging to grow affordable food due to the increased input costs of public utilities in an urban zone. The proposed grant fund would help to mitigate overall production costs by covering a portion of the water and electrical infrastructure needed to raise crops.

The Prince George's County Farm Bureau fully supports HB0855 and encourages a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Harrison B. Palmer  
Young Farmer Chair  
Prince George's County Farm Bureau