



**House Bill 156 (Delegate Pam Queen)**

Local Governments – Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones – Authorization

Position: Favorable

January 20, 2022

On behalf of Fair Farms Maryland supports HB 156. Thank you to Delegate Queen, your staff, and the stakeholders involved with writing this bill for their leadership.

I worked at ECO City Farms, an urban farm in Prince George’s County and, I am familiar with some of the challenges of running an urban farm. Urban farmers often have to pay higher taxes on land and resources needed to maintain their operations, unlike their rural or peri-urban counterparts. The financial opportunities created by this bill will be a great asset to current urban farmers. It will also lower some of the barriers to entry for people seeking to become farmers.

Urban farming is not a hobby. It is a viable way of feeding one’s community and reducing the disparities caused by food apartheid– the systemic segregation of those who can afford healthy food and those who can not.

Sincerely,

Humon Heidarian  
humon@fairfarmsnow.org  
Fair Farms Campaign Manager  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake