

February 28, 2022

House Ways & Means Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1002 – Sales and Use Tax-Electricity for Agricultural Purposes-Exemption

Dear Committee Members:

We are contacting you in support of HB 1002 - Sales and Use Tax-Electricity for Agricultural Purposes-Exemption, legislation that provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of electricity used for agricultural purposes. If passed, this bill would allow farmers like ourselves in Maryland to operate our small businesses with an increased profit margin of roughly \$500 annually for our five chicken houses.

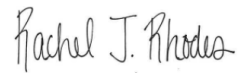
The cost of energy, like electricity, has increased rapidly, thus lowering our farm profits. Rising prices in the agriculture sector and Maryland's quickly evolving energy needs place undue burdens on family farmers.

Short Bio:

Rachel and Ryan Rhodes own and operate a family chicken farm in Centreville, MD in Queen Anne's County. They have two sons, Oliver and Henry, and they produce 570,000 organic broilers (chickens) annually. They also grow 45 acres of wheat, soybeans, and cover crops. Ryan has a BS in General Agriculture from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Rachel has a BS in Poultry Science from Delaware State University and a MS in Environmental Policy from Wesley College.

Again, we urge you to vote favorably to HB 1002.

Thank you!



Ryan and Rachel Rhodes, Shore Pleasure Farm-Centreville, Maryland