



March 03, 2023

HB 1083 - SUPPORT

Food System Resiliency Council – Invasive Species Coalition

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

With invasive species growing and further establishing themselves across the country, it is paramount to curtail the growth sooner rather than later. Invasive species can dramatically alter local ecosystems by decreasing biodiversity, out-competing and displacing native plants and animals (which can compromise ecosystem health) and threatening endangered species. Further contributing to the threat posed by invasives is the alarming speed at which they can reproduce and spread. As of 2016 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that U.S. agricultural production loses \$13 billion/year from invasive insects alone. States like Florida, Texas, and Michigan do not allow the general public to own species that will become invasive if introduced into the wild.

This bill targets the invasive species problem. Secular Maryland appeals to lawmakers to enact this bill.

Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD