



SUPPORT - HB0032
Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing Date: 1 FEB 2023

Chairman Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 20401

Chairman Barve,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today **in support of HB0031 - Maryland Food System Resiliency Council**. This bill will formally move the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC) under MDEM's Office of Resilience.

Currently, the FSRC is considered an independent advisory body within the executive branch, and assigned to MDEM and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to provide staffing. MDEM has taken the lead on coordinating the FSRC's efforts over the last two years and has supported the development of two major reports issued by the FSRC.

The current FSRC legislation required the Council to consider its organization and structure and make recommendations for adjustments in the 2022 report. After significant consideration and research into how various other statewide food councils were organized, the FSRC determined that MDEM's Office of Resilience was the most appropriate place for the Council to reside long term within state government. The Office's mission aligns well with the FSRC's goals as outlined by law, namely to reduce the impact of current and future disasters on Marylanders by coordinating the statewide effort to build and maintain resilience across hazards.



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

In conclusion, MDEM urges a **favorable report on HB0032 - Maryland Food System Resiliency Council**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.