



CHESAPEAKE
CULINARY CENTER
Locally Grown

512 Franklin Street . Denton, Maryland 21629
410.479.2144

February 7, 2023

To: Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Honorable Ariana B. Kelly, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Re: **House Bill 0063** Certified Local Farm and Chesapeake Invasive Species Provider Program – Establishment

CCC Position: **Support**

The Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that is a grassroots organization our mission is to create economically stable families through job creation and training, food security, and to drive our local economy by keeping our farmers farming, and now our watermen fishing. We seek to help all members of the community, including those most vulnerable to economic and health-related challenges, build relationships and prosper through food-centered programs. We see food as a uniting force. Regardless of one's socioeconomic status, race, or gender, all people need food to survive. Food-centered programs instantly provide common ground. They provide a context that is relatable for all people, creating a platform for teaching important life skills.

We feel the addition of “Chesapeake Invasive species” to the Certified Local Farm program will help institutions meet or exceed purchasing 20% of locally sourced food. This will also include a protein source that is harvested locally and to help create a market for our delicious but invasive species in our tributaries. By creating a market demand, it will allow our watermen to diversify their catch and help to reduce the number of invasives in our tributaries that are causing havoc on the ecosystem. This bill will assist in moving toward a more food resilient Maryland.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 0063

Contact: Beth Brewster, CCC Founder & Director-410.924.3934