



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

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January 24, 2023

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Prince George's County Farm Bureau

Re: Support of SB0012 - Corporations and Associations – Annual Report Filing Fees – Electronic Filing Exemption

On behalf of the Prince George's County Farm Bureau, I would like to express our support of Support of SB0012 - Corporations and Associations – Annual Report Filing Fees – Electronic Filing Exemption. This bill exempts business entities from the filing fees that are required by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation if they are filed electronically.

Inflation, rising fuel and input costs, and fewer markets for agricultural products have continued to put financial strain on Maryland farmers since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Alleviating some of this strain during a time of year where farmers are planning their seed, fertilizer and fuel purchases grants financial and mental relief. This added cost of doing business steers new and beginning farmers away from properly filing, and complicates the already challenging process for establishment. Currently, the only reduction in filing fees is available to "family farms" which disqualifies farmers on rented land and urban agricultural producers. The proposed legislation would create a more fair and equitable opportunity to reduce costs for all farmers in Maryland.

Prince George's County Farm Bureau serves the interests of all farmers across our county, and SB0012 stands to benefit our wide range of producers, therefore we are in full support of waiving filing fees for qualified businesses filing annual reports electronically.

Best Regards,

Sincerely,

Harrison Palmer

Vice President

Prince George's County Farm Bureau