



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 29, 2023

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 584 - Income Tax Credit - Food Donations by Qualified Farms - Extension (Farmers Feeding Families Act)**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 584. As amended, this bill makes permanent the tax credit against the State income tax for fresh farm and organic fresh farm food donations by farmers in Maryland. It alters the amounts of the tax credit from 75% to 100% of the value of the donated certified organic produce and from 50% to 100% of the value of the donated conventionally grown produce a qualified farm is eligible to receive. The total tax credit per farm is \$5,000 per year. This statewide program allows a farmer to get a tax credit on the produce they donate to a food bank. This tax credit helps offset the cost of production.

This program was expanded to a statewide program in 2019 which allowed more farmers to participate. During COVID, farmers were able to use this valuable tool to help offset the cost of growing the food that they were donating to so many that needed food. Maryland farmers work hard to provide for us, and we should help them when they do that for free.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 584 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396