



Maryland Grain Producers Association
210 Fallen Horse Circle, Suite 100, Queenstown, MD 21658
Lindsay.mdag@gmail.com (p) 443-262-8491
www.marylandgrain.com

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Senate Bill 278 - Department of Agriculture - Licensing, Registration, Fees and Penalties, and Regulation

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

MGPA Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. MGPA supports Senate Bill 278 which would allow the Department of Agriculture to alter the administrative penalty structure for violations related to nutrient management plans.

MGPA understands the importance of compliance with Maryland's nutrient management law as well as reporting that information in the Annual Implementation Report (AIR). AIRs contain information on crops grown, nutrients applied, nutrients generated and nutrients transported. This is important information for MDA to compile for reporting to the Chesapeake Bay Program Model. When farmers do not report their AIRs in a timely manner, it impacts the compliance rate and credit received for all of Maryland agriculture.

MGPA supports MDA having the ability to encourage compliance and reporting through adjustments to the penalty structure.

MGPA respectfully requests your favorable report on Senate Bill 278.