



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

**RE: Support with Amendments of HB0234 Department of Agriculture - Licensing, Registration, Fees and Penalties, and Regulation**

I am writing today on behalf of the nearly 9,500 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, in support with amendment of HB0234 Department of Agriculture - Licensing, Registration, Fees and Penalties, and Regulation.

While I understand the need for effective regulation and oversight in the agriculture industry, I also recognize the importance of striking a balance that supports the interests of farmers, promotes economic growth, and ensures environmental responsibility. HB0234 appears to be a comprehensive effort to address these considerations and modernize the regulatory framework governing the Department of Agriculture

Specifically, I appreciate the attention given to licensing, registration, fees, and penalties, as outlined in the bill. These elements play a critical role in maintaining a fair and transparent system that benefits both the agricultural community and consumers. The proposed changes seem well-reasoned and are likely to contribute to a more efficient and effective regulatory environment.

I also acknowledge the significance of the regulatory aspects covered by HB0234. Strengthening regulations can enhance environmental stewardship, food safety, and overall industry standards. I believe that the provisions outlined in the bill demonstrate a commitment to fostering a sustainable and responsible agricultural sector in Maryland.

The members of Maryland Farm Bureau ask for an extension on the implementation date of the nutrient management to the year 2026. This past year Maryland farmers have experienced a lot of time and focus spent on the nutrient management plan. While everything settles down, it would be beneficial to Maryland Farmers to have more time to adapt and learn a new system for submitting, and for plan writers within the University of Maryland Extension to get settled.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports with Amendment HB0234**

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Maryland Farm Bureau

*Please reach out to Tyler Hough at (443) 878-4045 with any questions*