



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** Informational – HB0024 -Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions

On behalf of the nearly 9,500 Farm Bureau families of Maryland, I am reaching out with informational testimony on HB0024. This bill would require the Department of the Environment to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation regarding the impact of issuing an approval for certain environmental permits.

This bill has potential crossover into the agricultural sector and could affect the Maryland general Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit. In Maryland, the CAFO permit is regulated by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also regulates CAFOs in Maryland, and recently published the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule requiring the electronic reporting of the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The CAFOs of the state are closely monitored and inspected, to ensure that they are not causing pollution to the surrounding area. Currently there are roughly 520 CAFOs in the state, most of which being poultry operations located on the Eastern Shore.

Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully asks for an amendment to HB0024 that would exempt Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough at (443) 878-4045 with any questions*