



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 19th, 2024

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

Re: **Opposition of HB0094 - Correctional Services - Inmate Employment - Agricultural Work**

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit this written testimony in opposition to HB0094. This bill repeals the authority of the Division of Correction to arrange for inmates to be employed in agricultural work during any part of the year at a camp in Queen Anne's County or any other county with a similar camp.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We recommend that inmates in minimum security penal complexes be required to work on highways, prison farms or other public projects. We also favor emphasis on the rehabilitation of persons confined to penal institutions to afford them a better opportunity to assume a constructive role in society.

In addition, it is crucial to recognize the importance of rehabilitation for individuals within the penal system. Our intention is to offer our inmates a hand-up, providing for better outcomes and the opportunity to assume a meaningful role in society. We advocate for a compassionate approach that not only addresses the concerns of the bill but also prioritizes the long-term well-being and reintegration of individuals within the correctional system.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTIFULLY OPPOSES HB0094

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

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Tyler Hough at (443) 878-4045