



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-922-3426 | www.mdfarmbureau.com

March 6, 2025

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support – HB1396 – Property Rights Protection Act of 2025

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, we write to express our strong support for HB1396, the Property Rights Protection Act of 2025. This legislation is a crucial step toward safeguarding Maryland's agricultural lands from undue condemnation, ensuring the long-term viability of our farms and rural communities.

Maryland's farmers play a vital role in producing food, fiber, and fuel for our state and beyond. However, as the demand for energy infrastructure grows, we have seen increasing pressure to convert productive farmland into industrial sites for power lines and renewable energy projects. While we recognize the need for responsible energy development, it is imperative that such initiatives do not come at the expense of the agricultural industry, which serves as the backbone of Maryland's economy and rural heritage.

HB1396 protects farms and conservation easements from condemnation, reinforcing the principle that landowners should have the right to determine the best use of their property. Many farmers have voluntarily placed their land into conservation programs to preserve it for future generations. Allowing government entities or utilities to override these commitments through eminent domain would undermine these efforts and set a dangerous precedent for land use policy.

Furthermore, maintaining prime farmland is essential to ensuring food security, environmental sustainability, and economic stability in rural Maryland. Productive agricultural lands contribute to water quality improvements, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity—benefits that far exceed the value of their conversion to power infrastructure. By prohibiting the use of condemnation for such projects, HB1396 upholds the integrity of our agricultural industry and the rights of Maryland's farm families.

We urge you and your colleagues to support HB1396 to protect Maryland's farmers, their land, and the future of agriculture in our state. Thank you for your consideration, and we appreciate your continued advocacy for Maryland's rural communities.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions