



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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March 13, 2025

**To:** House Economic Matters Committee

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

**RE: Support of HB1417 Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program – Establishment**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB1417 Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program – Establishment. This bill seeks to establish the Clean Energy Procurement Program within the Department of General Services.

This initiative will not only advance Maryland's clean energy goals but also provide significant benefits to the agricultural sector through the increased use of biogas. By prioritizing biogas procurement, the program will create new opportunities for farmers to utilize organic waste through anaerobic digestion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while generating a reliable, renewable energy source. Anaerobic digestion technology allows agricultural operations to convert manure and other organic byproducts into biogas, addressing waste management challenges, improving soil health, and enhancing water quality by reducing nutrient runoff. Additionally, by integrating biogas into the state's energy portfolio, Maryland can decrease its reliance on fossil fuels, support rural economies, and promote sustainable farming practices. I urge the General Assembly to pass this bill, as it represents a critical step toward a cleaner environment, a stronger agricultural economy, and a more resilient energy future for Maryland.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Supports HB1417**

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions