



Maryland Farm Bureau

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March 6, 2025

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of HB1337 Real Property - Condemnation - Damages Awarded for Lost Profits

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB1337 Real Property - Condemnation - Damages Awarded for Lost Profits. This proposed legislation would ensure that the owner of a business or farm operation conducted on property that is taken via condemnation is entitled to damages for the loss of profits.

Maryland farmers invest significant amounts of time, resources, and effort into maintaining their land as a valuable asset and a cornerstone of the state's agricultural heritage.

Condemnation proceedings that undervalue farmland not only jeopardize individual farm operations but also undermine the long-term viability of Maryland's agricultural industry.

HB0081 recognizes the unique and irreplaceable value of farmland by mandating fair market valuations that reflect its highest potential.

The Maryland Farm Bureau supports the inclusion of provisions that require compensation to account for the total devaluation of the farm. This includes the negative impacts, such as visual disruption and other factors, resulting from eminent domain projects. Farmers deserve to be compensated not only for the physical loss of land but also for the broader, often less tangible, effects on their operations and property values.

This legislation is vital to protect Maryland's farmland and to honor the contributions of farmers who play an essential role in feeding our communities, preserving open spaces, and supporting the state's economy. HB1337 reinforces Maryland's commitment to its farmers by ensuring fair and just compensation in eminent domain cases.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions