Paul D. Corderman Legislative District 2 Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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February 25, 2025

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (EEE) Chair Brian Feldman Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the EEE Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 580 to you today. This bill simply adds "Washington County" to the list of other counties where an existing agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit under certain circumstances – specifically, if the building's use of agritourism does not require it to be occupied by more than 200 people at any one time and the total width of egress for the building meets specified building code standards. Including Washington County in this list will allow farms within our community to operate more freely, offer more amenities to visitors, and as such grow the agritourism facets of their farms.

Additionally, the amendment exempts agricultural buildings used for agritourism from certain building performance standards. Including Washington County in both lists will allow farms within our community to operate more freely, offer more amenities to visitors, and as such grow the agritourism facets of their farms.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 580.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Corderman

District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties