

Garrett County Farm Bureau
P. O. Box 161
McHenry, MD 21541

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD

The Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

We are writing this in support of SB 0878 - Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Authorization. The core issue here is our farmers may own a resource - natural gas - which is not just valuable to them but also to the citizens of Maryland. The only method known that can be used to extract that resource is hydraulic fracturing.

The State of Maryland performed their due diligence and completed a comprehensive examination of the use of hydraulic fracturing for the production of natural gas. It involved thousands of hours of effort by many people and stakeholders. Their conclusion was that there is no risk from the process that cannot be managed through standard regulatory processes and proposed regulations which would permit hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

The legislature then overruled their scientific advice and passed a ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland. This action reduces the potential value of our farmers gas to zero and they consider that to be effectively a taking of our property.

In the years since the ban, the production of natural gas through the use of hydraulic fracturing has proven to be a reliable, effective, and highly beneficial practice which is helping the citizens of Maryland live better, healthier lives.

Our farmers feel it is time for the State to allow them to contribute their gas to the effort as well. We urge you to pass this Bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Billy Bishoff
Garrett County Farm Bureau