

Testimony For HB0471

Honorable Delegates

I support prohibiting a nonresident alien who is

- A citizen of a country subject to an embargo under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, or
- A member of a commercial enterprise or business incorporated in a country subject to an embargo under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, or
- employed by or associated with the government of a country subject to an embargo under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations

from purchasing agricultural land or participating in certain agricultural programs.

This Bill is designed to safeguard Maryland's farmland from being acquired by individuals or entities identified by the Federal Government as significant threats to our national security. This critical legislation is needed to protect our agricultural resources and ensure that foreign or hostile interests do not undermine the safety and security of our state and nation.

Additionally, we do not want these nonresident aliens being able to purchase agricultural land near our military installations.

According to the Maryland Farm Bureau, corporations or individuals with ties to China already own 3.5 percent of Maryland's foreign-investor-owned agricultural land as of February 12, 2024.

Please enter a favorable report for HB0471.

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