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Date: February 4, 2025
To: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Grayson Middleton, Government Affairs Manager
Re: HB 225 – Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products – **Support**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 225 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 225 would include field-loaded farm products in an exceptional hauling permit and would increase the weight allowances of these products given they have the appropriate number of axles. These products include (but are not limited to) live poultry, grain, raw milk, and produce.

Farm-loaded products, including poultry, are currently subject to the same weight restrictions as other commodities. However, they cannot be properly weighed coming out of the field or poultry farms. These greater allowances will ensure that our third-party haulers are operating within legal limits while allowing for proper tracking and inspection for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Aside from the obvious benefit of fewer trips for our haulers, this permit will also directly result in fewer emissions and less stress on Maryland roads. Fewer trips translate to less fuel usage and less carbon output. Finally, this bill requires commensurate axles with higher weights, so although the haulers may have more weight, the stress on roads will not increase.

This legislation is mutually beneficial to the environment, MDOT, and the regulated community, and as such, we urge a **favorable** vote on HB 225.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at middleton@dcahicken.com or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

Grayson Middleton

Government Affairs Manager