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Senate Bill 990- Consumer Protection - Agricultural Equipment Warranties

Committee: Finance

MGPA Position: Support

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) represents the interests of grain farmers who grow corn, wheat, barley, and sorghum throughout Maryland. MGPA strongly supports Senate Bill 990, which would provide critical protections for Maryland farmers who rely on agricultural equipment for their operations.

Senate Bill 990 mandates that manufacturers of agricultural equipment must replace or accept the return of equipment if a material defect is identified during the warranty period and the manufacturer is unable to repair or correct any defect or condition that substantially impairs the use and market value of the equipment.

Agricultural equipment is costly, and the expenses associated with its operation and maintenance have increased by 41% over the past two decades. This equipment is vital to nearly every aspect of farming, including field preparation, planting, treatment, harvesting, and hauling. While new equipment is typically covered by a manufacturer's warranty, farmers are often required to have repairs performed by the manufacturer's designated service providers, who are not always readily accessible. Farming is a time-sensitive industry, and farmers should not be burdened with having to continue using defective equipment simply because they cannot afford to replace it.

Senate Bill 990 would provide much-needed protections for farmers, similar to the "lemon law" protections available to vehicle owners. It ensures that farmers are not stuck with faulty equipment that hampers their productivity and profitability.

MGPA urges lawmakers to support Senate Bill 990 and ensure that Maryland farmers have the necessary protections to keep their operations running smoothly.