



Every Child a Success

Dr. Jymil S. Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

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To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Lisa Peters, Director of Food and Nutrition, Dorchester County Public Schools

RE: Testimony in support of HB 56
Procurement -State Department of Education- Control Authority- Local Food Purchasing

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for HB 56. Our district would love to be able to purchase local produce, but do not have the time or staffing to write out a bid, ensure that we are reaching all the local certified farms and then arrange the logistics for deliveries to all our schools.

HB56 will allow MSDE to write the contracts for purchasing local food products at no cost to the state of Maryland and this will save our district both time and money. I encourage you to support local school districts by supporting HB 56. This legislation will be beneficial to so many local school districts.

In addition to staffing and budget constraints as already mentioned, I have highlighted for you below a few additional benefits of supporting this legislation:

- This will ensure purchasing foods grown at Certified Local Farms
- USDA will reach out to farmers and distributors to encourage them to list their products on the bid making more products available to schools
- We can shop by price on the website before buying
- We can participate more easily in serving Farm to Tray foods
- Foods can be purchased from as far away as 200 miles
- There is no cost to this bill for the state of Maryland

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on HB 56 and I strongly urge you to support HB 56. The development of this program will be the first in the nation and will be so helpful to our local school districts.

Sincerely,

Lisa Peters

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