



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
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February 7, 2025

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of SB661 Real Property - Condemnation - Compensation for Farm and Agricultural Property (Protect Maryland Farm Lands Act)

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of SB661 Real Property - Condemnation - Compensation for Farm and Agricultural Property (Protect Maryland Farm Lands Act). This proposed legislation would require the fair market value of agricultural property taken in condemnation to be valued at 350% of the highest appraisal value of the property.

Maryland farmers invest significant time, resources, and effort into maintaining their land as a valuable asset and a cornerstone of the state's agricultural heritage. Condemnation proceedings that undervalue farmland not only jeopardize individual farm operations but also undermine the long-term viability of Maryland's agricultural industry. SB661 recognizes the unique and irreplaceable value of farmland by mandating fair market valuations that reflect its highest potential.

The Maryland Farm Bureau supports the inclusion of provisions that require compensation to account for the total devaluation of the farm. This includes the negative impacts, such as visual disruption and other factors, resulting from eminent domain projects. Farmers deserve to be compensated not only for the physical loss of land but also for the broader, often less tangible, effects on their operations and property values.

This legislation is vital to protect Maryland's farmland and to honor the contributions of farmers who play an essential role in feeding our communities, preserving open spaces, and supporting the state's economy. SB661 reinforces Maryland's commitment to its farmers by ensuring fair and just compensation in eminent domain cases.



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Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB661

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Hough". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends to the left.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions