



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 7, 2025

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of SB657 - Eminent Domain – Just Compensation – Fees and Costs

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of SB657 Eminent Domain – Just Compensation – Fees and Costs. This legislation would establish that damages to be awarded for the taking of land in a condemnation proceeding include, in addition to the fair market value of the land taken, any legal, expert, or other fees or costs of the action incurred by a defendant.

Maryland farmers invest significant amounts of time, resources, and effort into maintaining their land as a valuable asset and a cornerstone of the state's agricultural heritage. It 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. Eminent domain proceedings can be a long, drawn-out process that is very financially taxing on the defendant. Even if the defendant was to win their eminent domain case, the time and effort placed into the process could leave farmers without the financial stability to continue the operation. Legislation that would include legal fees, expert fees, or other costs incurred during this process would allow for the financial stability for the continuation of the operation.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB657

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions