

Written Testimony for **SB 661/HB 81**: Real Property - Condemnation - Compensation for Farm and Agricultural Property (Protect Maryland Farm Lands Act) - Please **VOTE YES** on this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

This is a great bill. This legislation will protect our farms from being condemned, which is a wonderful thing for our food supply and a wonderful thing for our farmers and their livelihood.

I was very good friends with a girl whose family owned a farm as I grew up. (One of the sons now owns and runs the farm). She would get up at 4:00 a.m. every day, 7 days a week. On school days, she would get up at 4:00 a.m., milk the cows; then clean up and get ready for school. She would go to school, and she often got straight As in her classes. (We used to compare grades on tests and quizzes, as we were in mostly the same classes). Then, during basketball season, she would have daily practices and 2 games per week. She kept up with her school work and her grades during this extremely busy time. (Our families both went to the same church, so I knew her and her family pretty well, as my parents were friends with her parents). Then she would go home, do her homework and study for tests and quizzes, do more chores around the farm and help with dinner. Then, after dinner, more chores and homework and then she went to bed. She and her family were some of the hardest-working people I have ever known!!

With the shift in our society to more healthy food and beverages, we need our farmers now more than ever!! Our farmers and their farms are the heart of our communities. They produce food that ends up in our local schools for our children to eat, as well as simply being produced for large scale consumption.

Farmers have had a hard time in recent years with drought and/or rain cycles, and some farmers have had huge losses of family income due to hardships from weather.

Here is a chance to help our farmers and their families by protecting their farm land.

Please **VOTE YES** on this bill to show our hard-working farmers that you are on their side and believe in all their hard work.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident