



Engaged Community Offshoots, Inc.
dba ECO City Farms
301-288-1125 / info@ecocityfarms.org
Office: 6010 Taylor Road/Riverdale, MD 20737
Farms: 4913 Crittenden St./Edmonston, MD 20781
6100 Emerson Street/Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.ECOcityfarms.org / www.facebook.com/ecocityfarms

February 14, 2025

**House Bill 0907- Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Alterations
House Ways and Means Committee**

Position: Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

We write as two members of the staff of ECO City Farms– Kayla Agonoy and Margaret Morgan-Hubbard. More than 15 years old now, ECO is the pioneering Urban Agriculture non-profit in Prince George’s County. We were also involved in the founding of the Food Equity Council a dozen years ago and are still members of the Council.

This letter is written in support of House Bill 0907- Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Alterations.

In 2014, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB223 - Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property – Applicability which expanded the urban farm property tax credit beyond Baltimore City to the entire State of Maryland. The current bill– HB0907 serves to make more explicit the original objectives of the Urban Farm Property Tax Credit and to remove some of its unnecessary restrictions that have created barriers for potential beneficiaries of the legislation.

This new bill provides the framework for an urban farm property tax credit while granting each county the ability to implement county-level legislation that best fits the needs of their local residents and governance within the guidelines of HB0907.

As Urban Farmers and educators, we are very interested in seeing this bill pass. We believe the end result of its implementation will increase access to healthy food across the state of Maryland by:

- Promoting land access– particularly for underserved and under-resourced farmers– by incentivizing landowners to lease their property to urban farmers;
- Helping to make urban farming more economically viable;
- Encouraging farmers to sell or donate at least \$1,000 worth of farm goods to food banks and feed local communities;
- Creating stability through a multi-year tax benefit;
- Endorsing environmentally responsible practices through relationships (both required and optional) with the county Soil Conservation Districts;
- Removing limitations that have made the previous bill less accessible.



Engaged Community Offshoots, Inc.
dba ECO City Farms
301-288-1125 / info@ecocityfarms.org
Office: 6010 Taylor Road/Riverdale, MD 20737
Farms: 4913 Crittenden St./Edmonston, MD 20781
6100 Emerson Street/Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.ECOcityfarms.org / www.facebook.com/ecocityfarms

ECO City Farms trains and collaborates with beginning farmers to find suitable land to begin farming. We want to see these farms proliferate throughout the county and state, making more locally grown healthy food available to county residents and improving soil and water conservation in the process.

We endorse and promote Urban Agriculture because it allows residents to understand and see where their food comes from, increases community health through greater availability and consumption of healthy food, and supports composting of food waste for enriching soil and creating a healthier environment.

The new improved bill—HB0907 recognizes the diversity of farm operations, increases the amount of land available to grow on, and the urban locations where they may exist.

We are excited to support this bill and we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 0907 to ensure a resilient and robust food system for all of Maryland. Thank you.

Kayla Agonoy, Deputy Director of ECO City Farms (kayla@ecocityfrms.org) and PGC resident of Laurel, MD and

Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, CEO of ECO City Farms (info@ecocityfarms.org) and PGC resident of Hyattsville, MD