



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 4, 2025

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB483 Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation – Alterations**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB483 Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation – Alterations. This bill repeals the limitation on the maximum amount of a credit against the State income tax that an individual may claim for expenses incurred for a donation of deer meat to non-profit organizations.

Deer damage is a major problem facing our Maryland Farmers. In the last time that the USDA surveyed Maryland farmers regarding crop damage, deer were responsible for roughly 77 percent. Based on discussions with farmers statewide, it is estimated that average deer damage costs the farmer roughly \$50 per acre. Considering that Maryland has more than 1.2 million crop acres, deer could be causing as much as \$60 million in damage yearly.

By removing the limitation on the maximum amount of credit against the State income tax an individual may claim for venison donation, the more opportunity there is for hunters to make meaningful donations fighting food hunger. Making the donation process easier and more financially beneficial for the hunter will lead to more deer being harvested and slowly chipping away at Maryland's Deer Damage crisis affecting our farmers.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports HB483

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

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