



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 14, 2025

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of HB998 Calvert County - Property Tax Credit - Tobacco Barns

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB998 Calvert County - Property Tax Credit - Tobacco Barns. This proposed legislation would authorize Calvert County to grant a property tax credit against county property that was formerly used solely as a tobacco barn.

Tobacco and tobacco barns hold a significant place in the agricultural history of Southern Maryland. For over 350 years, tobacco was the dominant industry in the region, deeply influencing its economy, culture, and landscape. In Calvert County, tobacco was the primary cash crop and played a crucial role as a key export for the colony.

However, following the Maryland Tobacco Buyout, agriculture in Southern Maryland shifted away from tobacco production, transitioning to alternative crops and industries. As a result, many historic tobacco barns—once vital to the region's farming heritage—have fallen into disrepair or been repurposed.

This proposed tax credit for tobacco barns in Calvert County would serve as an incentive for their preservation, ensuring that the rich history of tobacco farming in Southern Maryland remains intact for future generations. By supporting the restoration and maintenance of these historic structures, the tax credit would help safeguard an important part of the region's agricultural legacy.

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

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